Black Jack

Osamu Tezuka

VOLUME NO. 5

Translation—Maya Rosewood
Production—Glen Isip
Akane Ishida
Hiroko Mizuno
Copyright © 2009 by Tezuka Productions
Translation Copyright © 2009 by Vertical, Inc.

This is a work of fiction.

All rights reserved.

Published by Vertical, Inc., New York.

Originally published in Japanese as *Burakku Jakku 5*
by Akita Shoten, Tokyo, 1987.
*Burakku Jakku* first serialized in *Shukan Shonen Champion*,
Akita Shoten, 1973-83.

e-ISBN: 978-1-941220-73-3

First Edition

Vertical, Inc.
451 Park Avenue South 7th Floor
New York, NY 10016
www.vertical-inc.com

# Black Jack

Volume 5

Osamu Tezuka

VERTICAL.

## CONTENTS

HOSPITAL .....005

QUITE A TONGUE .....027

ASKING FOR WATER .....047

YET FALSE THE DAYS .....067

THE LAST TRAIN .....093

THERE WAS A VALVE! .....115

TWO AT THE BATHS .....135

PINOKO'S MYSTERY .....155

IMPRINT .....175

99% WATER .....195

THE HELPER .....217

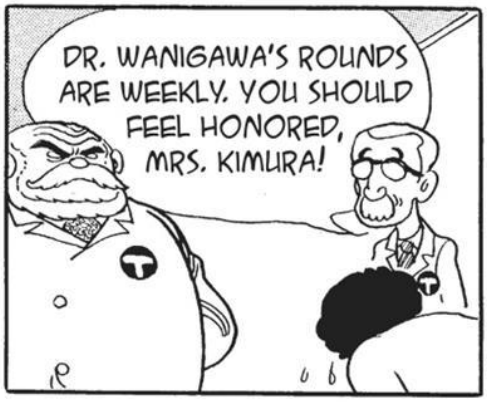
COUNTRY CLINIC .....237

WOLF GIRL .....259

ON A SNOWY NIGHT .....279

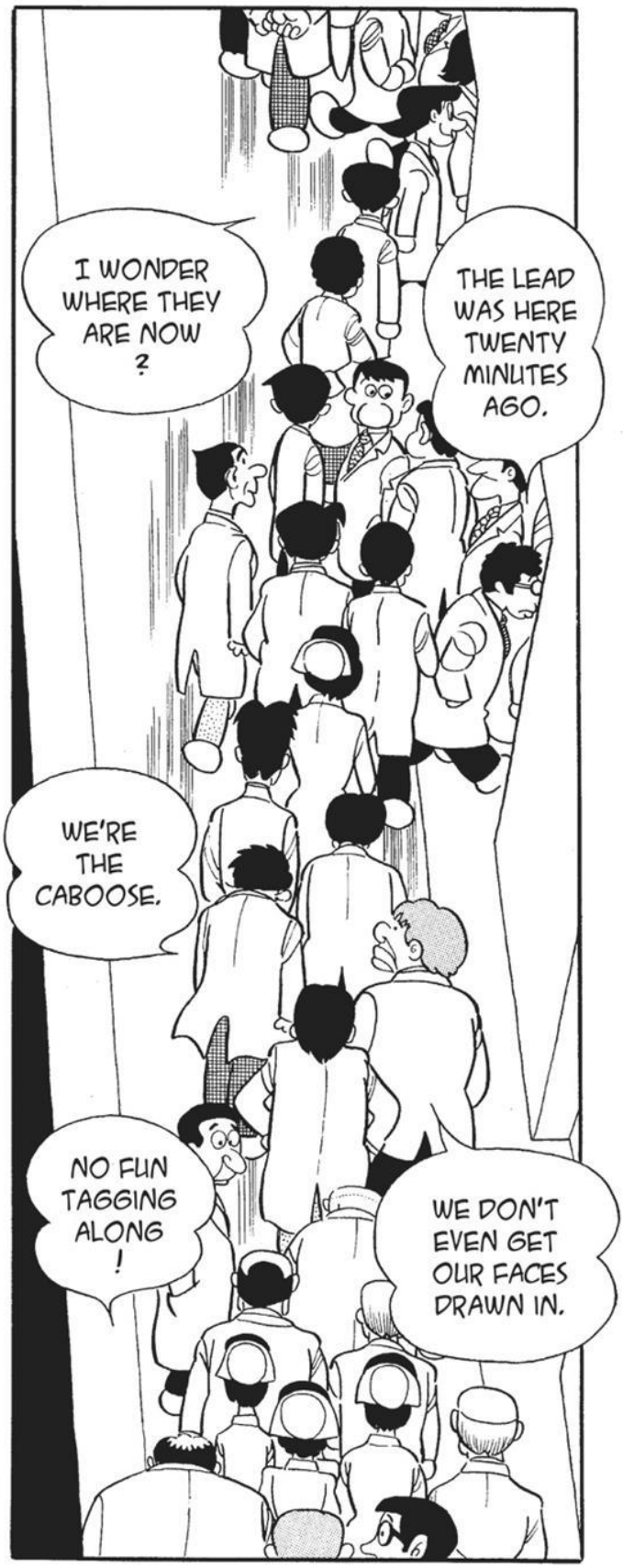
# HOSPITAL

ROUNDS!
THANK YOU SO MUCH.


DR. WANIGAWA'S ROUNDS ARE WEEKLY. YOU SHOULD FEEL HONORED, MRS. KIMURA!

YESSIR!
CHART!

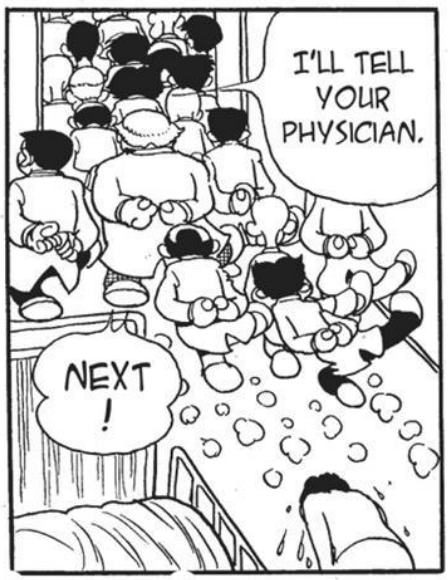
OW...OW!

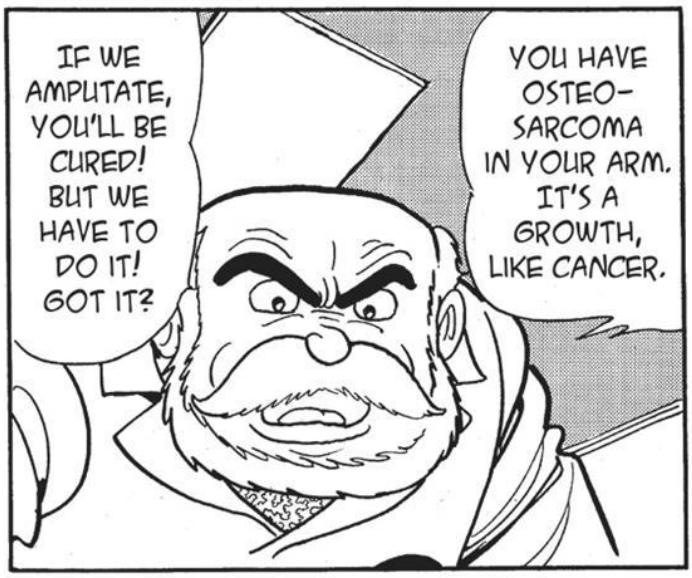

I WONDER WHERE THEY ARE NOW ?
THE LEAD WAS HERE TWENTY MINUTES AGO.
WE'RE THE CABOOSE.
NO FUN TAGGING ALONG !
WE DON'T EVEN GET OUR FACES DRAWN IN.

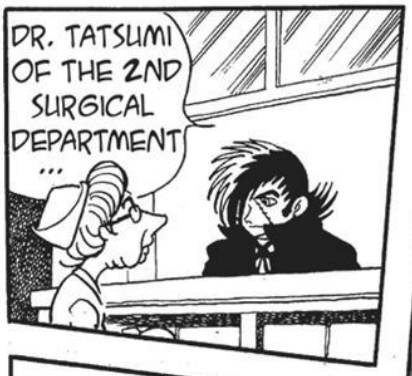
YOU CAN'T!!

WE'LL HAVE TO AMPUTATE YOUR ARM!
WHY DIDN'T YOU COME TO US SOONER? IT'S TOO LATE NOW.

YOU CAN'T CUT OFF MY HAND!!


I'LL TELL YOUR PHYSICIAN.
NEXT !

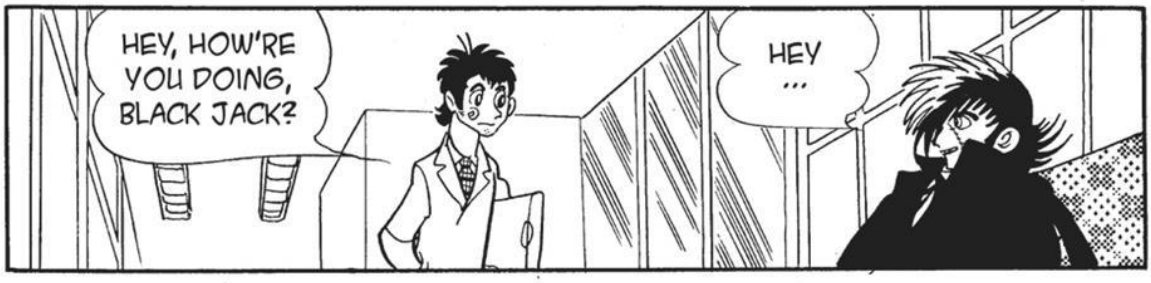

IF WE AMPUTATE, YOU'LL BE CURED! BUT WE HAVE TO DO IT! GOT IT?
YOU HAVE OSTEO-SARCOMA IN YOUR ARM. IT'S A GROWTH, LIKE CANCER.

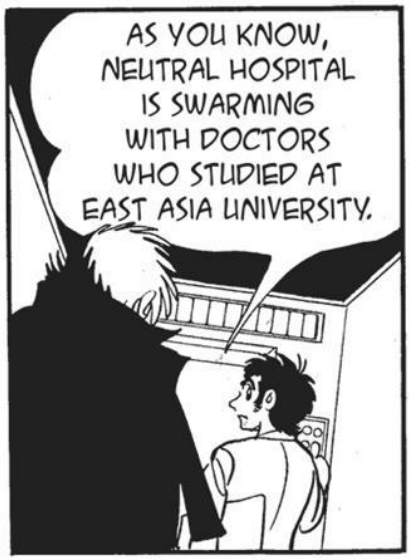

DR. TATSUMI OF THE 2ND SURGICAL DEPARTMENT ...

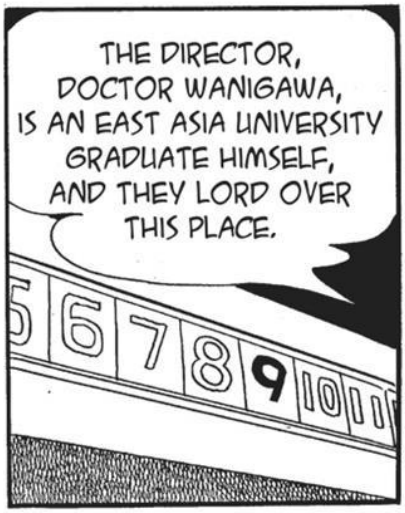
THE DIRECTOR IS MAKING HIS ROUNDS RIGHT NOW. PLEASE WAIT.

...

PLEASE, DON'T CUT OFF MY HAND! I, I...



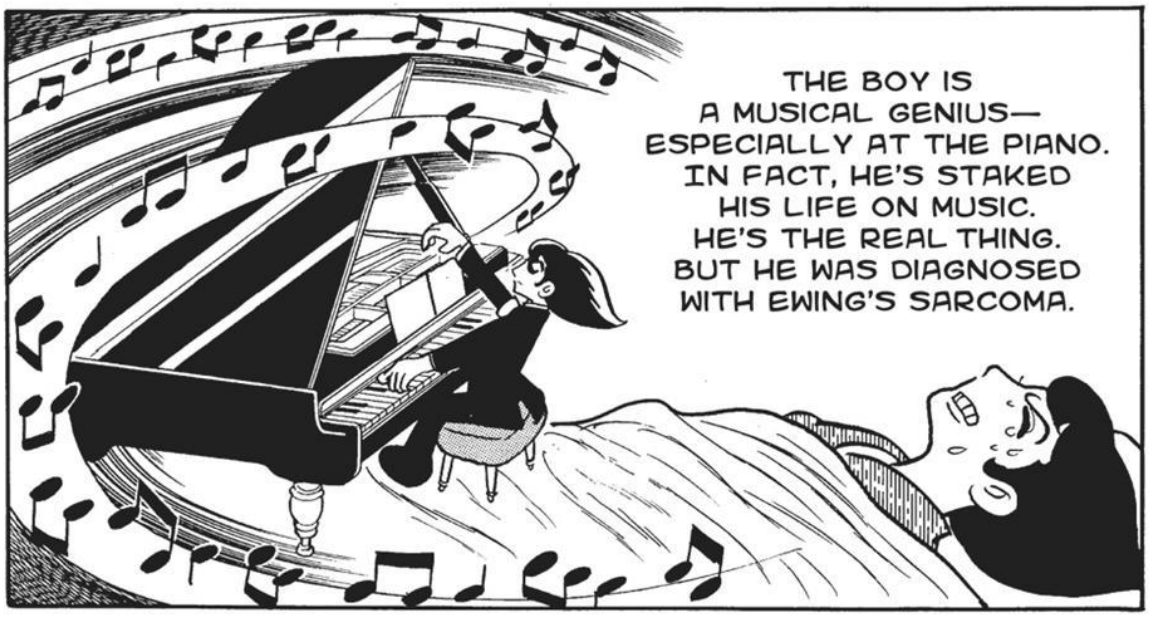


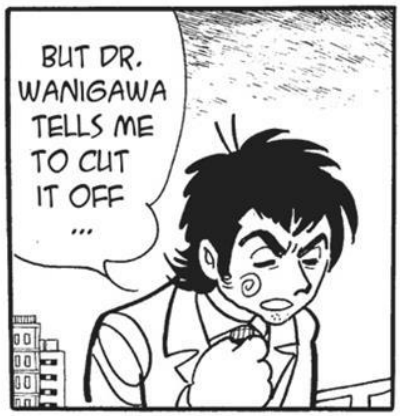

NOTE: *EAST ASIA* IS ORIGINALLY "TOA," HENCE THE "T" EMBLEMS IN A HOSPITAL IRONICALLY NAMED "CHURITSU" OR *NEUTRAL* (A PLAY ON "CHUO" OR *CENTRAL*). THE FICTIONAL TOA IS MOST LIKELY STANDING IN FOR TOKYO UNIVERSITY, JAPAN'S HARVARD.

I HAVE A PATIENT WITH OSTEO-SARCOMA.
NOW ...

SO I HEAR.


THE BOY IS A MUSICAL GENIUS— ESPECIALLY AT THE PIANO. IN FACT, HE'S STAKED HIS LIFE ON MUSIC. HE'S THE REAL THING. BUT HE WAS DIAGNOSED WITH EWING'S SARCOMA.

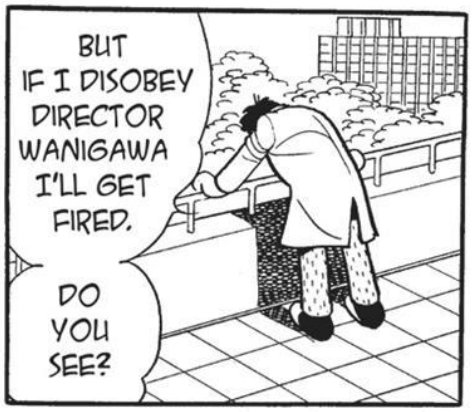
IF I AMPUTATE, HE'LL LOSE HIS WILL TO LIVE. I'VE TAKEN PAINS TO FIND ANOTHER WAY.
HE IS DEVASTATED. HIS PARENTS, TOO.


BUT DR. WANIGAWA TELLS ME TO CUT IT OFF ...

THEN YOU'RE SET.

AND I THINK I HAVE.

IT'S HIS DOCTRINE TO JUST GO AHEAD WITH AMPUTATION NO MATTER WHAT.
HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT? HE ALWAYS TELLS US TO AMPUTATE AFTER TAKING JUST ONE LOOK!
OH WELL.


BUT IF I DISOBEY DIRECTOR WANIGAWA I'LL GET FIRED.
DO YOU SEE?

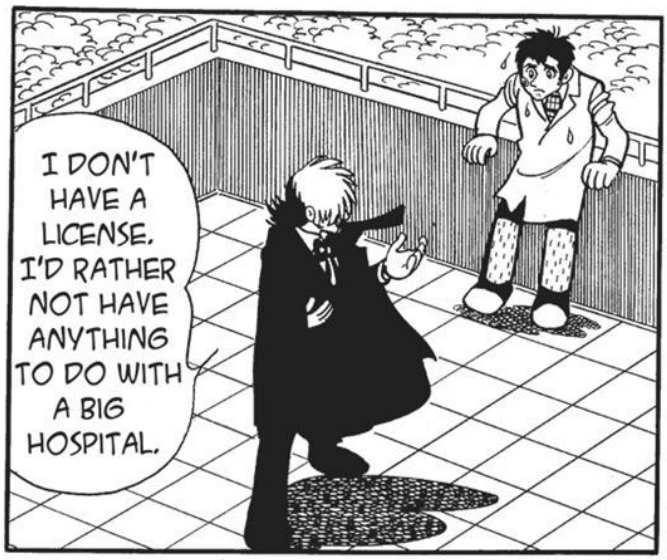
I DON'T WANT TO DO IT. I CAN'T BEAR TO RUIN THAT BOY'S LIFE...
I HAVE TO OPERATE IN A FEW DAYS!

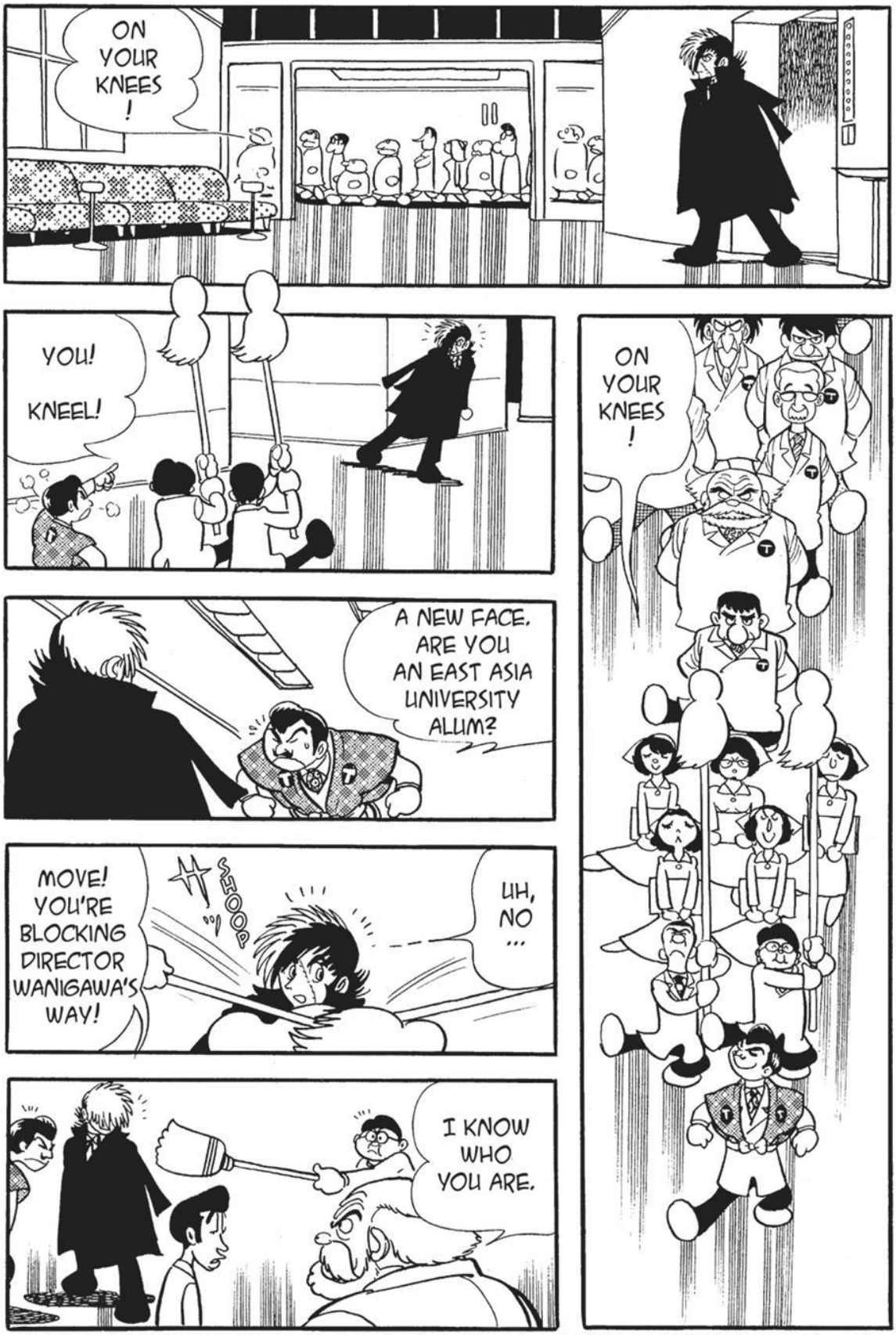
WHY ARE YOU ASKING ME ?

PLEASE... TELL ME WHAT TO DO.

WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM ME?

USE YOUR OWN HEAD.
SO LONG !


I DON'T HAVE A LICENSE. I'D RATHER NOT HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH A BIG HOSPITAL.




NOTE: THE POSSE'S PARAPHERNALIA AND CALLS FOR SELF-ABASEMENT PARODY THE DAIMYO PROCESSIONS OF OLD. FEUDAL LORDS TRAVELED WITH INTERMINABLE QUEUES OF ARROGANT RETAINERS.

THIS IS NO PLACE FOR YOU.
WHAT'S AN UNLICENSED DOCTOR DOING IN A REAL HOSPITAL?

YOU'RE THAT ILL-REPUTED BLACK JACK, AREN'T YOU?

WHAT'S WITH THOSE SCARS, EH?

...

DON'T ACT FRESH JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE A LITTLE SKILLED.

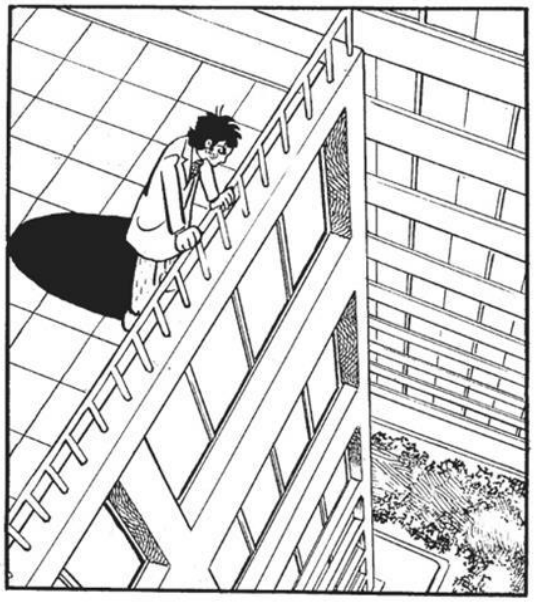
THEY SAY HE DIED A DOG'S DEATH.
NO WONDER!
A REAL LOSER, HE WAS.
THE MAN SHOULD NEVER HAVE ATTEMPTED ANY SURGERY.
WAHAHAHA
HAHAHA

A HORRIBLE QUACK MUST HAVE MESSED UP HIS FACE.

RUMOR'S THAT ONE JOTARO HONMA OPERATED ON HIM. HONMA WAS MY YEAR!

HUH ?
I DARE YOU TO SAY THAT AGAIN!
SAY THAT AGAIN !
WHAT DID YOU CALL DR. HONMA?!
SIR, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT ?
RIOT
GET OUT OF HERE !
YOU SAID "LOSER" !
I SAID HE WAS MY YEAR.
YOU SCUM!
YOU'LL TREAT HIM WITH RESPECT !
HANDS OFF THE DIRECTOR! GET BACK!!

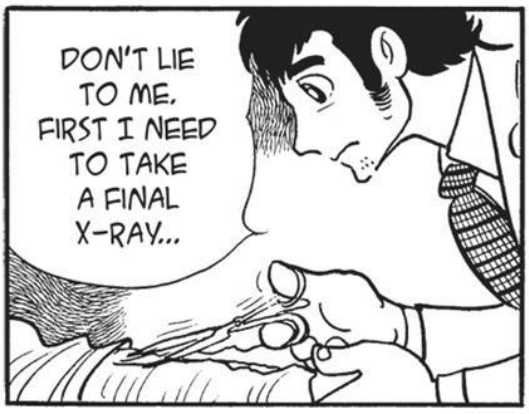
WHERE ARE MY HANDS? I CAN'T PLAY!!
MY HANDS !!



FORGOT SOME-THING?
I FORGOT TO SAY...

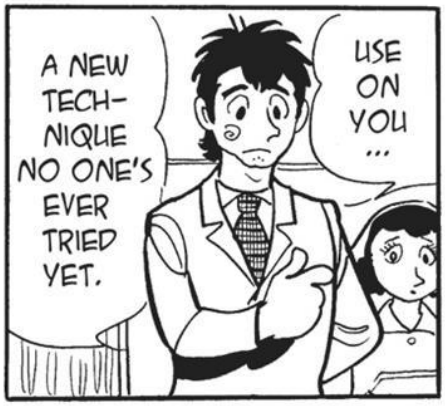
I'LL HELP YOU WITH THE SURGERY AFTER ALL.

AAAH!
GIVE THEM BACK !!
DO YOU HAVE MY HANDS ?
TODAY'S THE DAY WE PART, DEAR ARM.
A DREAM, AGAIN...
BUT NO. NEVER AGAIN...
IF IT HEALED... I COULD PLAY JUST ONCE MORE.
I SO BADLY WANTED TO BE A PIANIST... MY RIGHT HAND, MORE PRECIOUS THAN MY LIFE...
IS THAT THE GOOD NEWS?
YOU'LL LOSE YOUR RIGHT HAND BUT RETAIN YOUR LEFT. AND YOU'LL LIVE.
I'M GONNA OPERATE TODAY AS THE DIRECTOR ORDERED. YOU GOTTA BE STRONG...
LISTEN WELL, KIMURA.

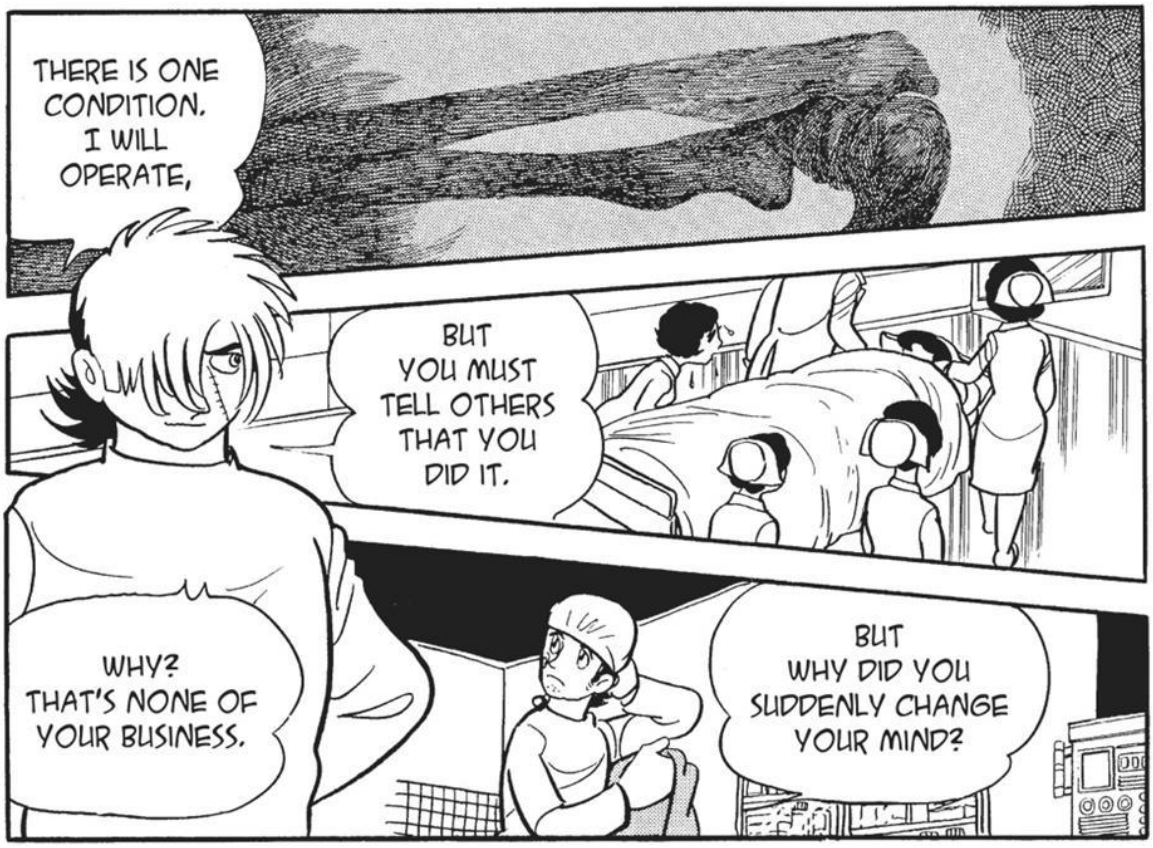

DON'T LIE TO ME. FIRST I NEED TO TAKE A FINAL X-RAY...

DOES IT HURT AT ALL?
N-NO. THESE DAYS IT JUST—

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN, DOC?

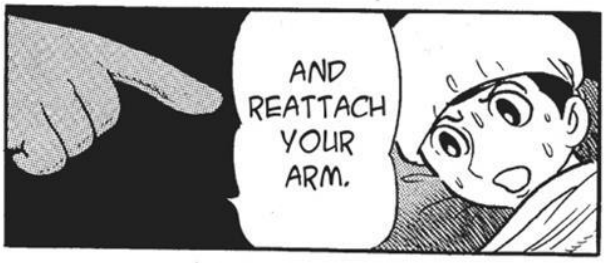

A NEW TECH-NIQUE NO ONE'S EVER TRIED YET.
USE ON YOU ...

BUT WE JUST MIGHT...


THERE IS ONE CONDITION. I WILL OPERATE,
BUT YOU MUST TELL OTHERS THAT YOU DID IT.
WHY? THAT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS.
BUT WHY DID YOU SUDDENLY CHANGE YOUR MIND?

THIS IS DR. BLACK JACK. HE'LL BE OPERATING ON YOU.

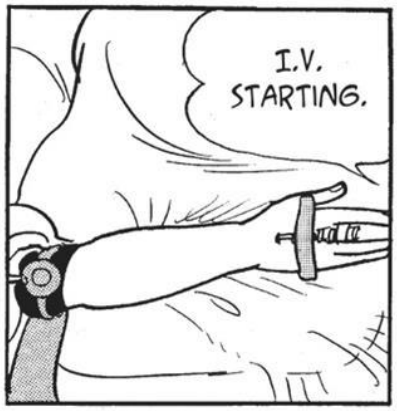
HI, MOM.
BE STRONG NOW.


AND REATTACH YOUR ARM.

FIRST I'LL DETACH YOUR RIGHT ARM AS IT'S AN ABSOLUTE ORDER FROM THE DIRECTOR.
AFTER THAT, I'LL CUT OUT THE EWING'S SARCOMA ...

YOU'LL R-RE-ATTACH MY ARM ?
YOU CAN DO THAT ?

THEY'VE DONE IT NUMEROUS TIMES IN CHINA AND AMERICA.
BUT ...


I.V. STARTING.

PLEASE TRY IT, DOCTOR !

WE NEED TO GIVE UP IF THE SARCOMA IS TOO ADVANCED.

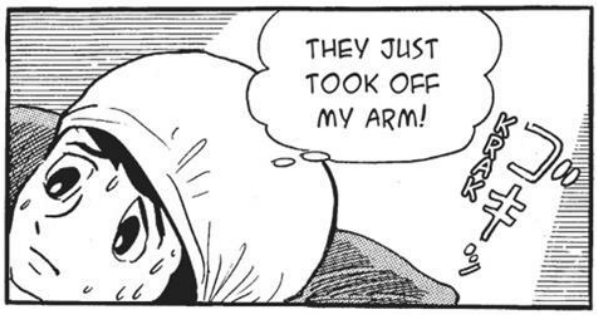
WHEN YOU CUT IT OFF I BET I'LL FEEL SOMETHING!

WHY WOULD YOU? IT'S LOCAL.
UM, I'M NOT GOING UNDER.

THEN SHUT UP.

NO WAY.

SAY, DO YOU CHAT DURING YOUR RECITALS ?

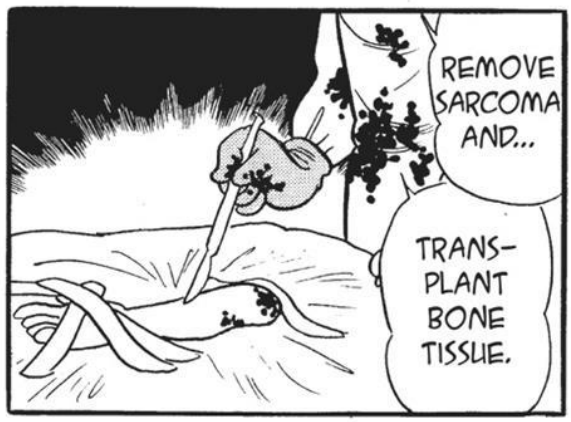

THEY JUST TOOK OFF MY ARM!
ズズズズ

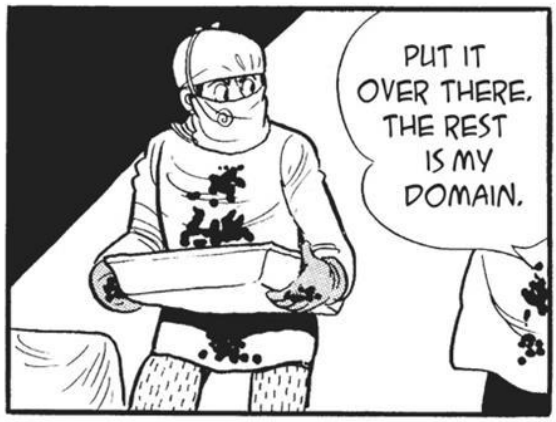
...

CARE TO SEE A SEVERED LIMB, YOUNG MAN?

THE STAGE IS MINE NOW.
SO, TATSUMI, YOU'VE OBEYED YOUR DIRECTOR.

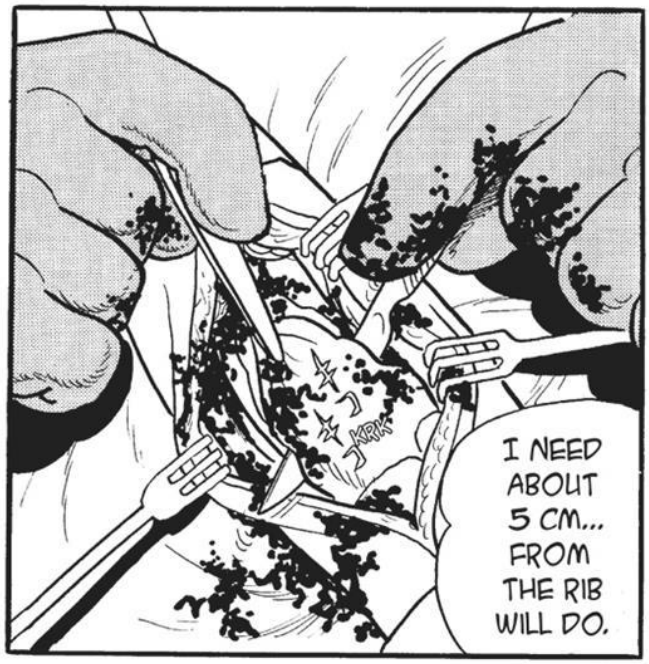
GOT IT.
DISCONNECT AT THE ELBOW JOINT.


REMOVE SARCOMA AND...
TRANS-PLANT BONE TISSUE.


PUT IT OVER THERE. THE REST IS MY DOMAIN.

CAN YOU REATTACH IT?
IT'S BEEN AN HOUR ...

DON'T FRET.


KIRK
I NEED ABOUT 5 CM... FROM THE RIB WILL DO.

DONE !!

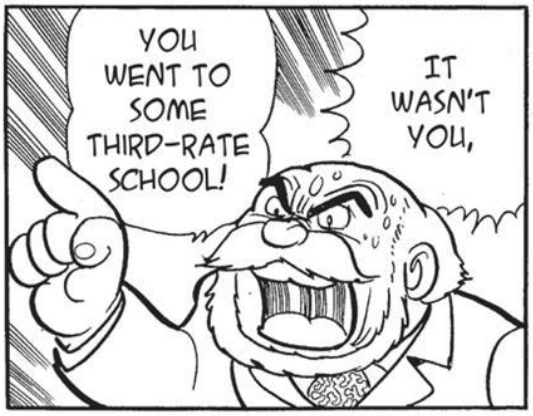
FROM WEEKLY CHAMPION.

WHERE DID YOU LEARN THAT?
THAT WAS SUPERB !

NICE TRY !
HA HA HA
I GUESS IT'S TRUE.
SO I HEAR YOU AMPUTATED A PATIENT'S ARM AND THEN REATTACHED IT. COULD THIS UNLIKELY RUMOR BE TRUE ?
I'LL TAKE OFF THE CAST.
LET'S HAVE A LOOK, SHALL WE ?
EVEN I HAVE NEVER PULLED OFF SUCH A PROCEDURE. THERE'S NO WAY YOU COULD.
NOW BE SERIOUS.
...
HE DID IT ?!
AMAZING!
YES, DO IT !
TRY TO MOVE IT.
NOW,
NOT A SCAR, EVEN.
THIS IS INCREDIBLE.

THERE'S NO WAY YOU COULD HAVE PULLED IT OFF! WHOSE WORK IS IT?
YOU WILL, IF YOU KEEP IT UP WITH YOUR REHAB.
...MY FINGERS! THEY... MOVE!
I CAN STILL PLAY THE PIANO !
LOOK !!

TELL ME THE NAME OF THE DOCTOR AND WHERE HE WORKS!


YOU WENT TO SOME THIRD-RATE SCHOOL!
IT WASN'T YOU,

.....FOR GOODNESS' SAKE...

BLACK JACK ?!

FINE, I'LL TELL YOU THEN. IT WAS BLACK JACK! HE DID THIS!

...

FOR LETTING AN UNLICENSED DOCTOR OPERATE, YOU'RE DISMISSED AS OF TODAY!

HE AND I STUDIED AT THE SAME THIRD-RATE SCHOOL !
THE AMAZING OPERATION WAS BLACK JACK'S!
AND YET... LOOK AT THIS BOY!

GOODBYE, DOCTOR !

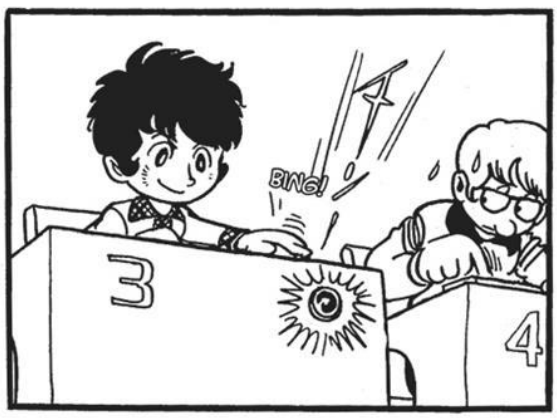
WELL ...
JUST ONCE, I NEEDED TO DO IN A TOP DOCTOR WITH A DEGREE FROM EAST ASIA UNIVERSITY.

THEY FIRED ME! HA... FEELS GOOD. I'LL JUST FIND ANOTHER HOSPITAL.

WHY DID YOU TELL THEM, DUMMY?

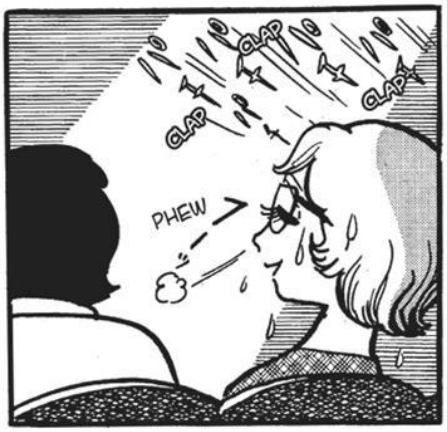
# QUITE A TONGUE

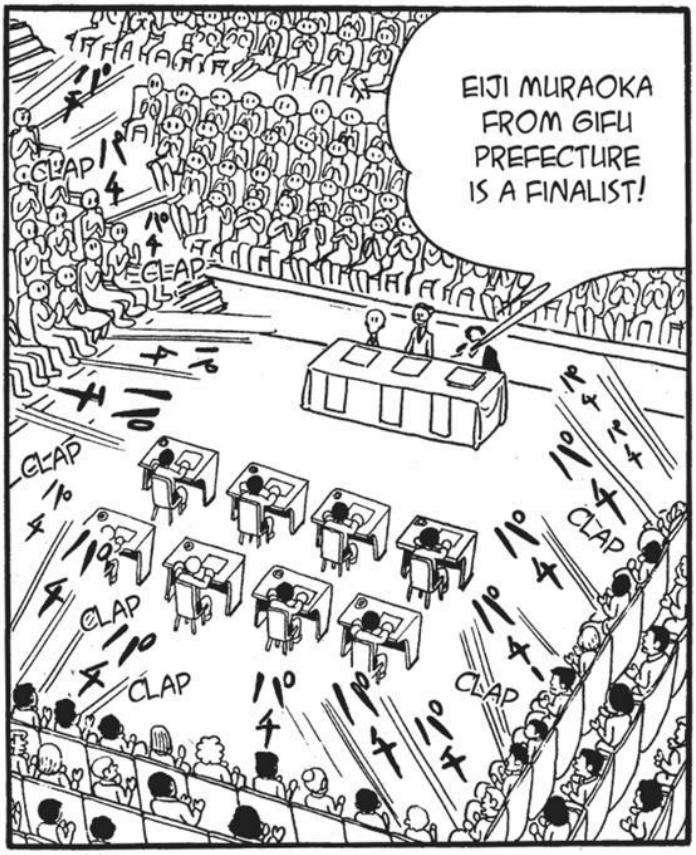
全国青少年珠算コンクール
NATIONAL BOYS' ABACUS COMPETITION
全国青少年珠算コンクール
KLAK
KLAK
KLAK
KLAK
KLAK
KLAK
3
11,689,923 YEN...
63,941,207 YEN...

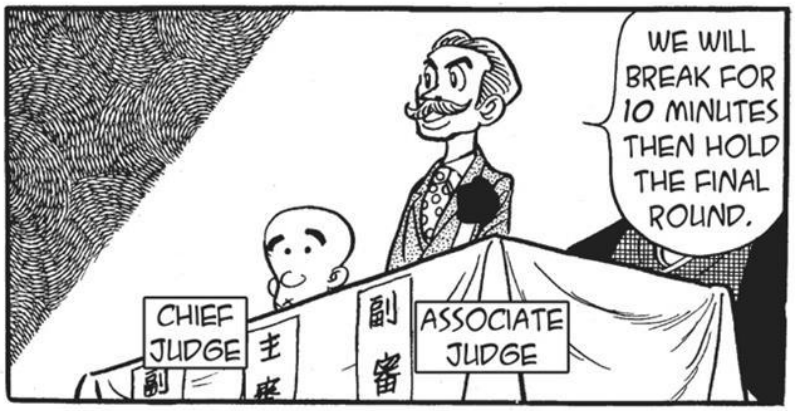

BING!
3
4

44,328,535 YEN... THE TOTAL?

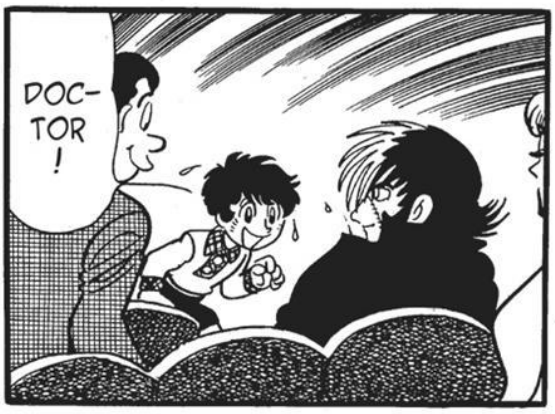
WHEW!

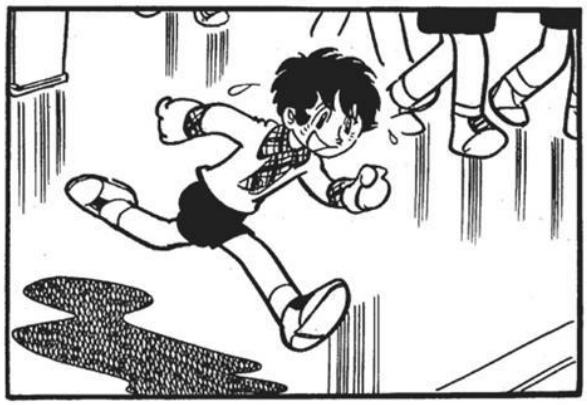

CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
PHEW


EIJI MURAOKA FROM GIFU PREFECTURE IS A FINALIST!
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP

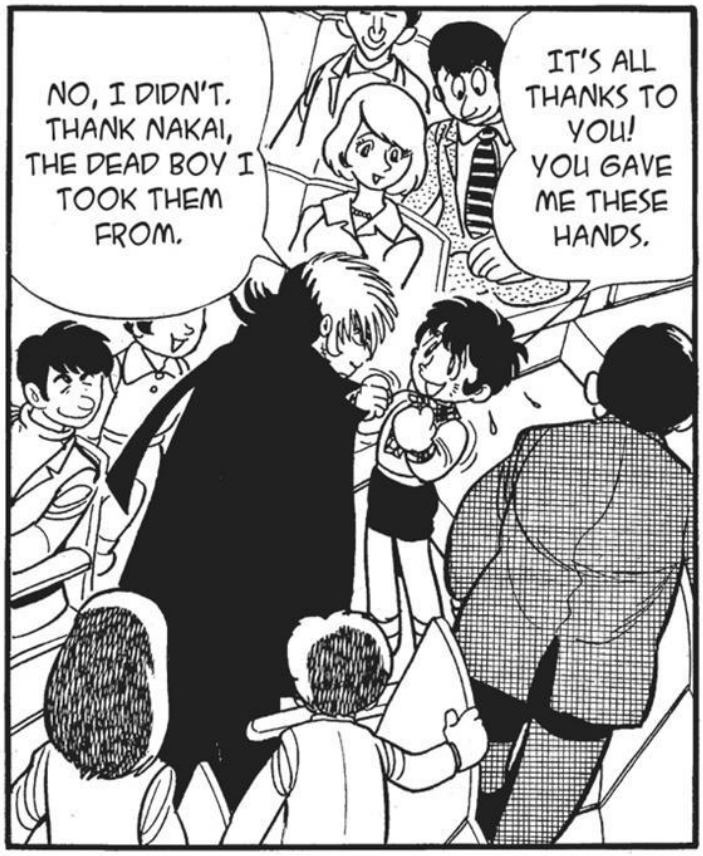

WE WILL BREAK FOR 10 MINUTES THEN HOLD THE FINAL ROUND.
CHIEF JUDGE
主
副
審
ASSOCIATE JUDGE

CLAP
CLAP
CLAP


DOC-TOR!



BUT YOU'RE THE ONE WHO OPERATED AND GAVE ME HANDS THAT WORK.
3
9


NO, I DIDN'T. THANK NAKAI, THE DEAD BOY I TOOK THEM FROM.
IT'S ALL THANKS TO YOU! YOU GAVE ME THESE HANDS.

GOOD FOR YOU. I HOPE YOU'RE SATISFIED, MAKING IT THIS FAR.
THANKS TO YOU I'M HERE AT THE NATIONAL ABACUS COMPETITION!

WHY NOT ?
I DON'T THINK SO, EIJI.

I'M SURE I'LL BE THE WINNER!

BUT YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO COMPETE AFTER JUST A TEN-MINUTE BREAK.
IF THE FINALS WERE ON A DIFFERENT DAY YOU'D BE FINE.

YOU KNOW YOU CAN'T USE YOUR HANDS FOR VERY LONG.

...

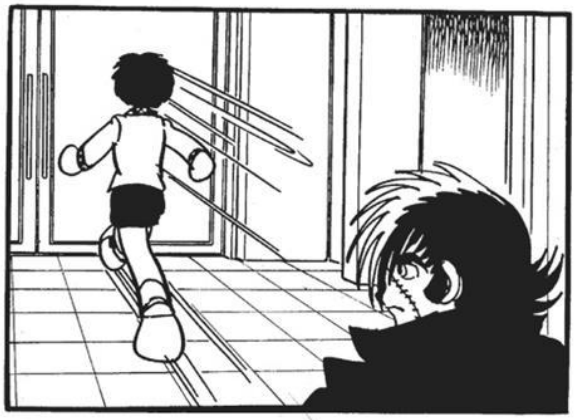
BUT THEY CAN'T ENDURE MORE THAN 30 MINUTES OF THIS, TOPS!
TRUE, YOU'VE TRAINED HARD TO MOVE THEM FAST AND ACCURATELY,
THAT INCLUDES YOUR FINGERS.

THIS TEN-MINUTE BREAK HARDLY COUNTS AS ONE, DOES IT?
DIDN'T YOU REHEARSE FOR TEN MINUTES BEFORE THE SEMI-FINALS?

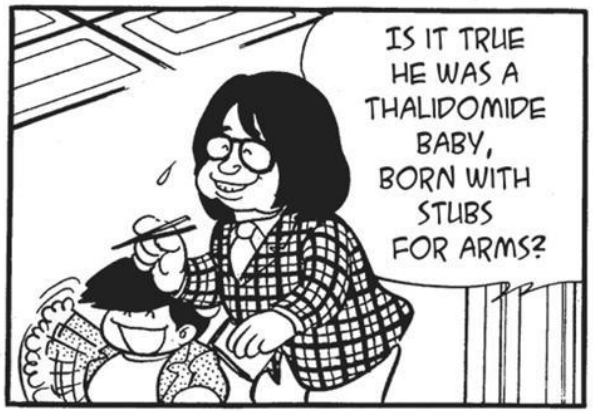
BUT THAT ROUND WAS TEN MINUTES. I'VE GOT THIS BREAK NOW AND THE FINAL IS TEN MINUTES TOO. I'LL BE OKAY!

ARE YOU THE ONE WHO OPERATED ON THAT BOY?

I WILL! PLEASE STAY AND WATCH!
I'LL WIN!



YES.

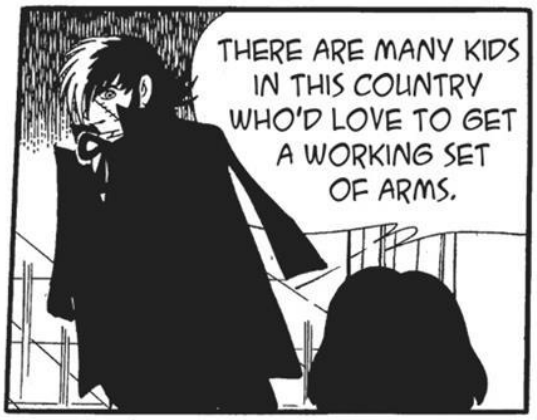

IS IT TRUE HE WAS A THALIDOMIDE BABY, BORN WITH STUBS FOR ARMS?

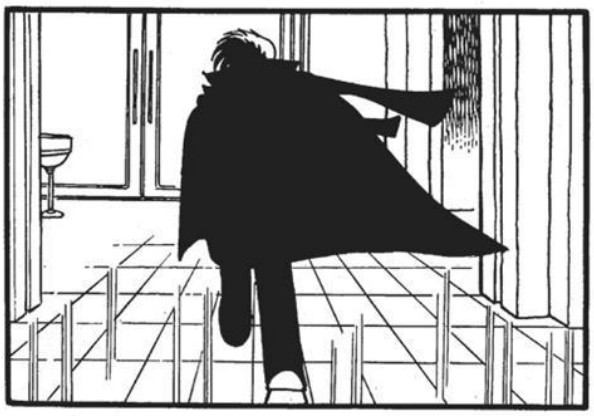
YOU CAN'T TURN THIS INTO AN ARTICLE.

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO GAVE HIM DECENT ARMS?

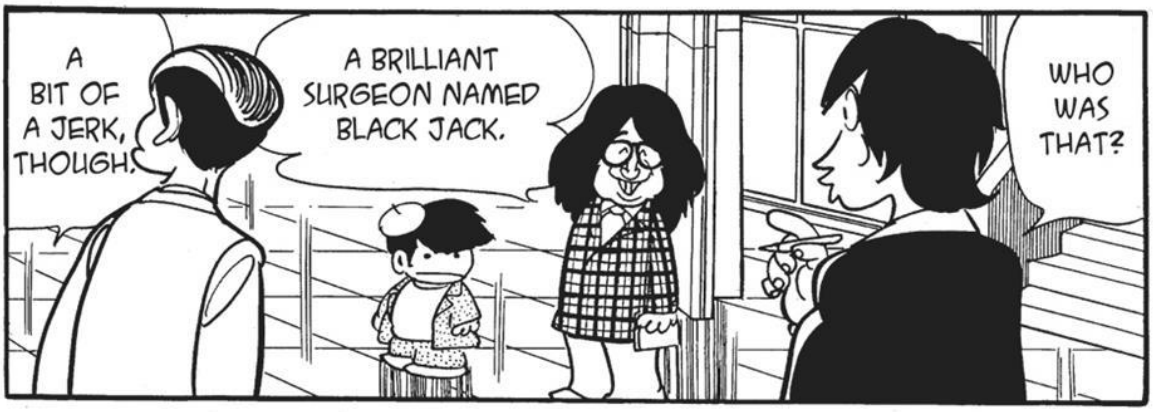
IT WOULD GIVE HOPE TO ALL HANDICAPPED CHILDREN!
WHY NOT? THIS IS SUCH A MOVING STORY!

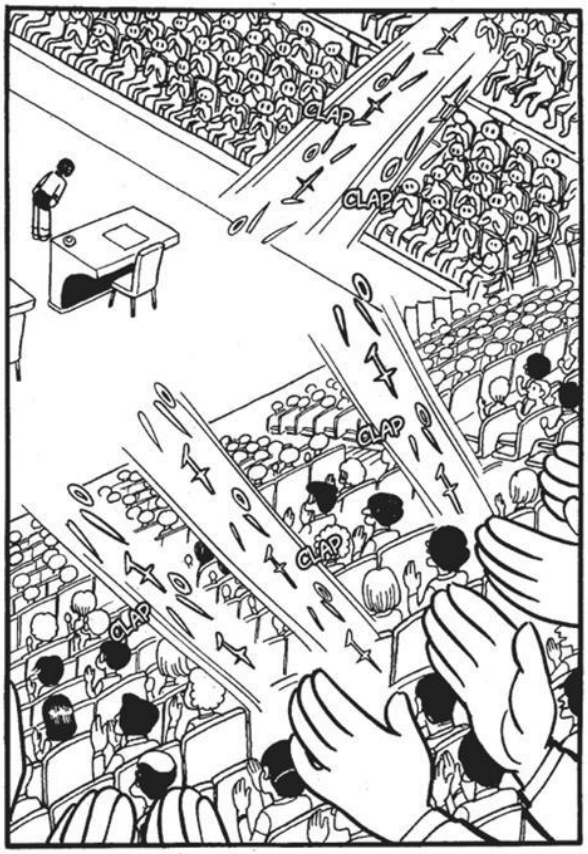
IF OTHER DISABLED KIDS LEARNED ABOUT HIM, THEY'D JUST FEEL ENVIOUS.
EIJI'S A VERY LUCKY ONE.

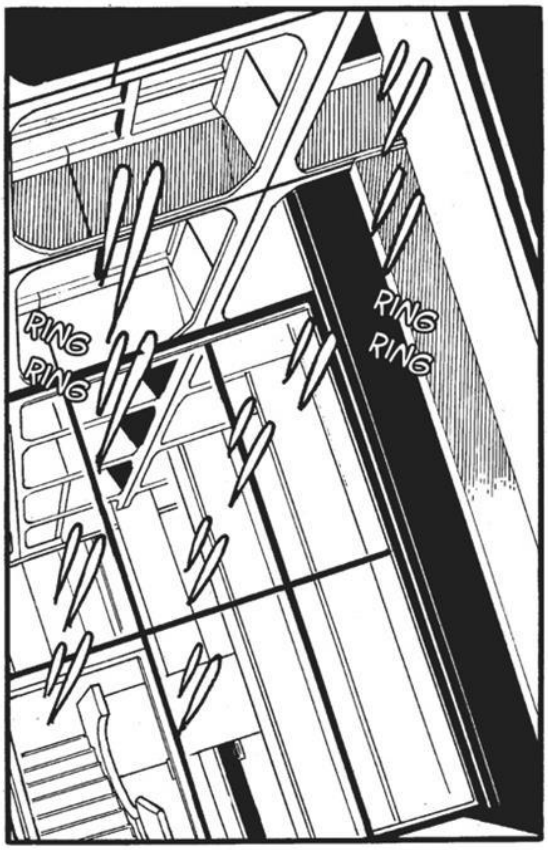

THERE ARE MANY KIDS IN THIS COUNTRY WHO'D LOVE TO GET A WORKING SET OF ARMS.

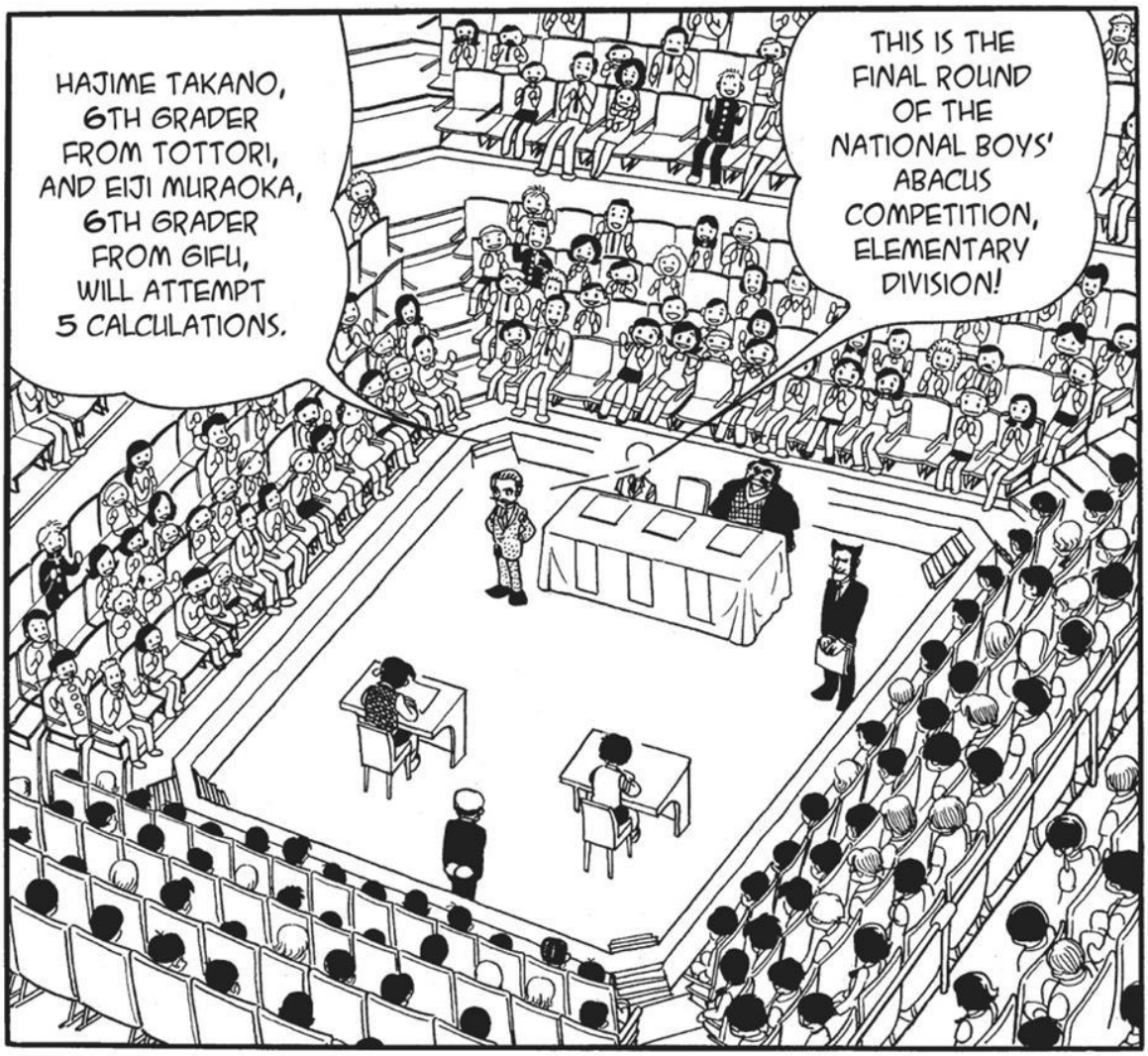


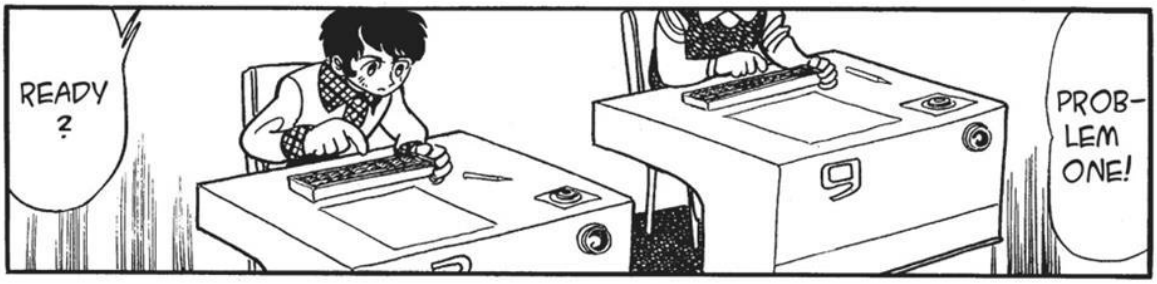
DON'T YOU SEE? THE KID IS NOT DISABLED ANYMORE ...


A BIT OF A JERK, THOUGH.
A BRILLIANT SURGEON NAMED BLACK JACK.
WHO WAS THAT?

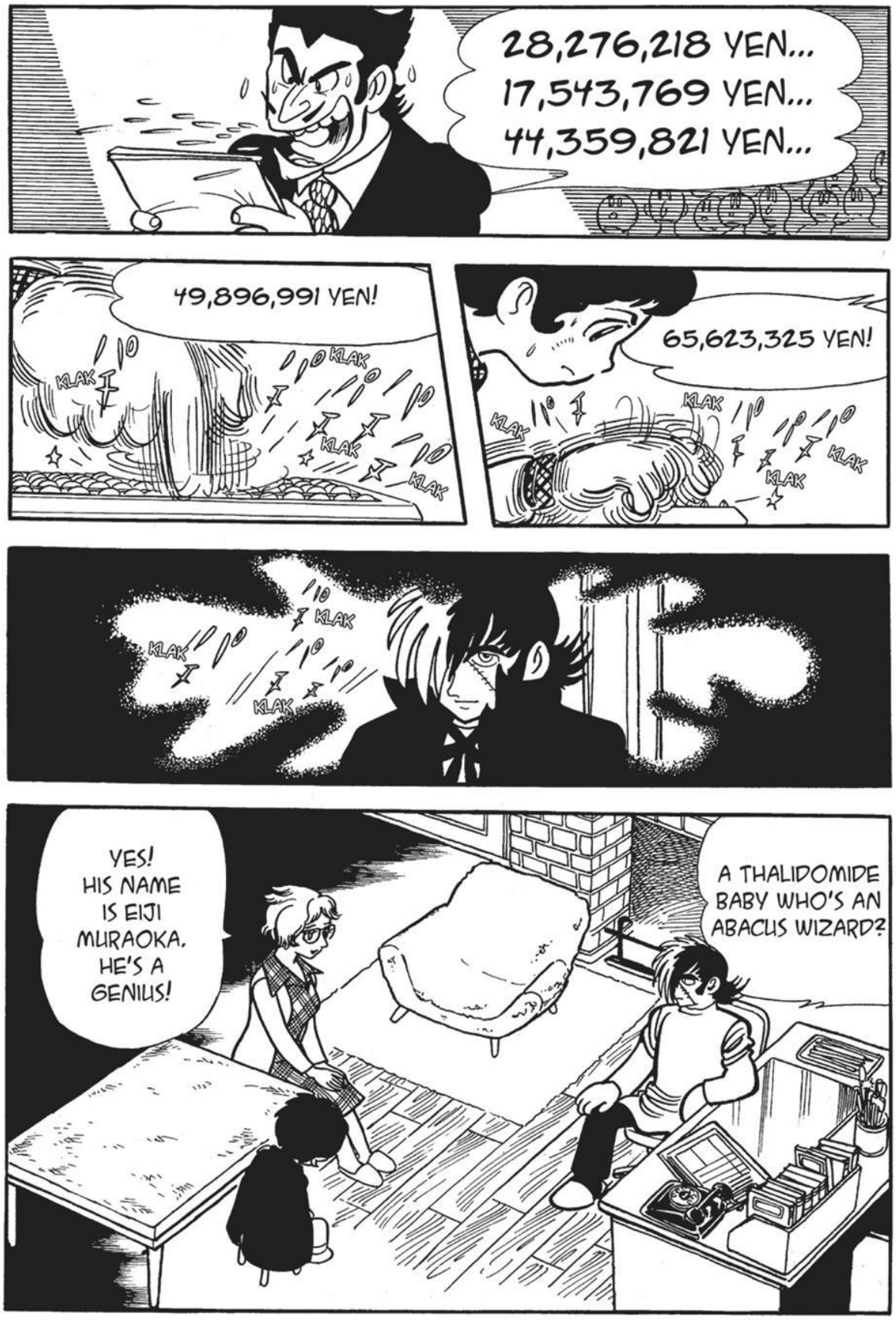

CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP


RING RING
RING RING

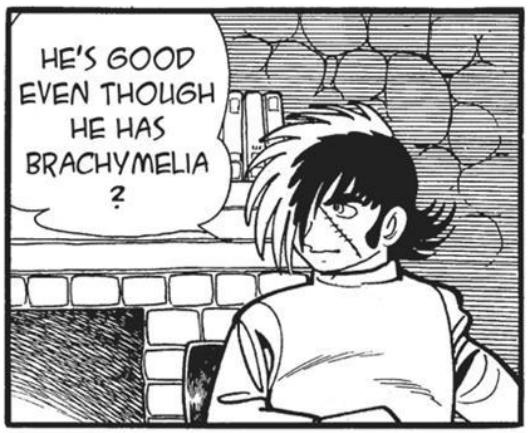

HAJIME TAKANO, 6TH GRADER FROM TOTTORI, AND EIJI MURAOKA, 6TH GRADER FROM GIFU, WILL ATTEMPT 5 CALCULATIONS.
THIS IS THE FINAL ROUND OF THE NATIONAL BOYS' ABACUS COMPETITION, ELEMENTARY DIVISION!


READY ?
PROB-LEM ONE!

MAY I ASK FOR ...


28,276,218 YEN...
17,543,769 YEN...
44,359,821 YEN...
49,896,991 YEN!
KLAK
KLAK
KLAK
KLAK
65,623,325 YEN!
KLAK
KLAK
KLAK
KLAK
KLAK
KLAK
YES! HIS NAME IS EIJI MURAOKA. HE'S A GENIUS!
A THALIDOMIDE BABY WHO'S AN ABACUS WIZARD?

YES, HE USES ANOTHER PART OF HIS BODY.


HE'S GOOD EVEN THOUGH HE HAS BRACHYMELIA ?

DON'T BE NERVOUS, OKAY?

WATCH THIS.

KLAK
KLAK
2,548 YEN... TOTAL?

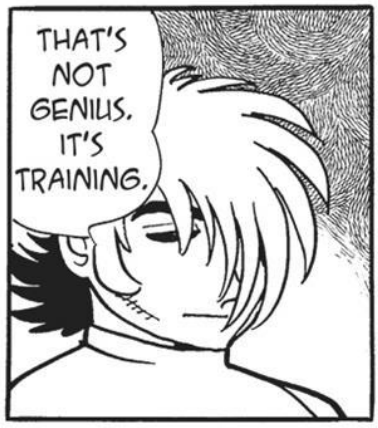
225 YEN, 4,917 YEN...
KLAK
KLAK

HE'S QUITE SOME-THING, ISN'T HE?

...

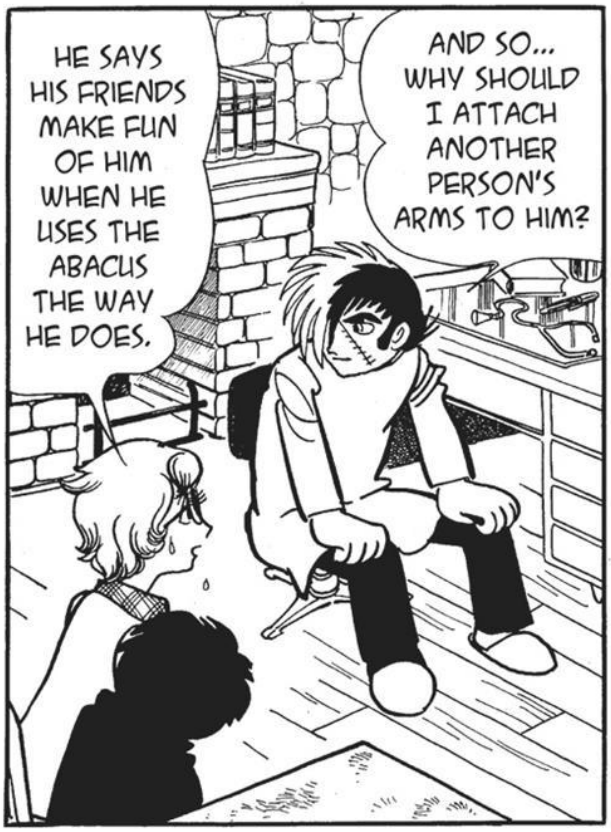
39,425 YEN!

...
YES, HE DID TRAIN VERY HARD. BUT THE FACT THAT HIS EFFORTS BORE FRUIT IS A MARK OF GENIUS!


THAT'S NOT GENIUS. IT'S TRAINING.

HE'S TOO SHY TO GO ON.
NOW HE DOESN'T WANT TO DO IT ANYMORE.

...
WHY DON'T YOU LAUGH RIGHT BACK AT THEM?


HE SAYS HIS FRIENDS MAKE FUN OF HIM WHEN HE USES THE ABACUS THE WAY HE DOES.
AND SO... WHY SHOULD I ATTACH ANOTHER PERSON'S ARMS TO HIM?

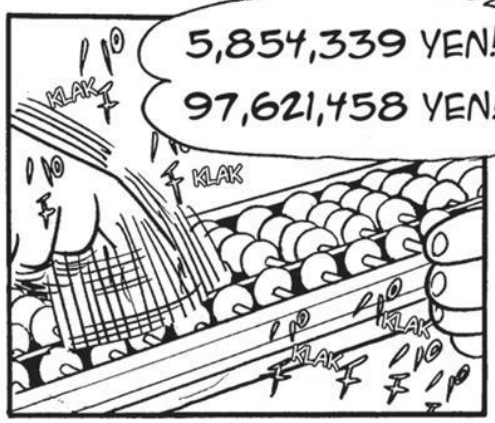
STILL ...
I'VE DONE OPERATIONS LIKE THAT MANY TIMES.

I HEARD YOU GAVE THE ARMS OF AN ACCIDENT VICTIM TO A PATIENT.
CAN'T YOU GIVE HIM NEW ARMS?

I KNOW THIS BOY WILL MASTER THE USE OF HIS NEW ARMS!
DOC-TOR!
I CAN'T GUARANTEE THAT THEY'LL BE DEXTEROUS ENOUGH TO USE AN ABACUS.

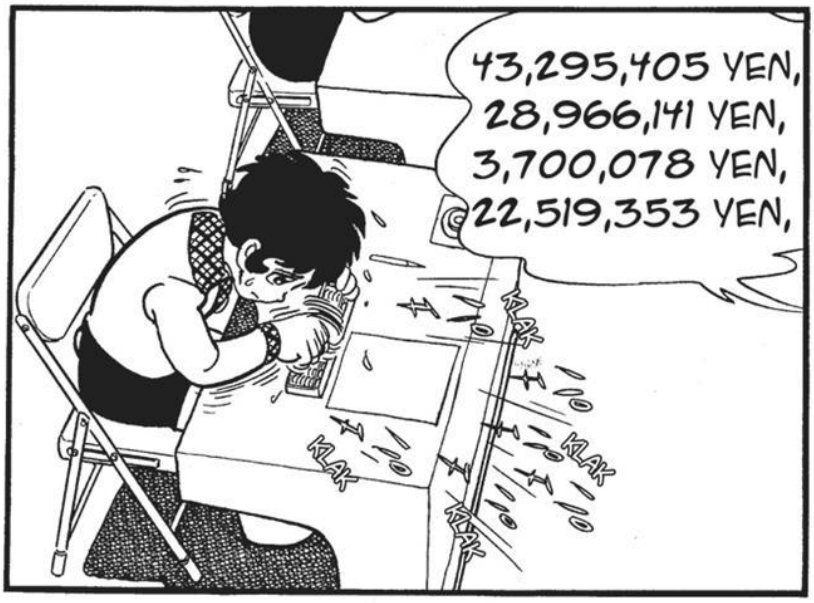
...

MAY I ASK FOR...

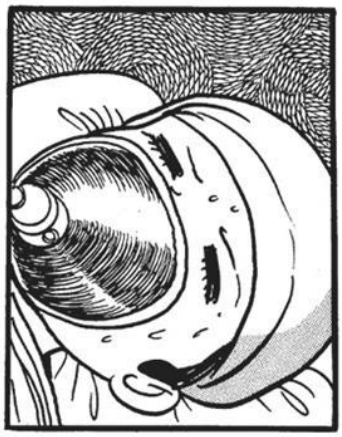

5,854,339 YEN!
97,621,458 YEN!
KLAK
KLAK
KLAK
KLAK

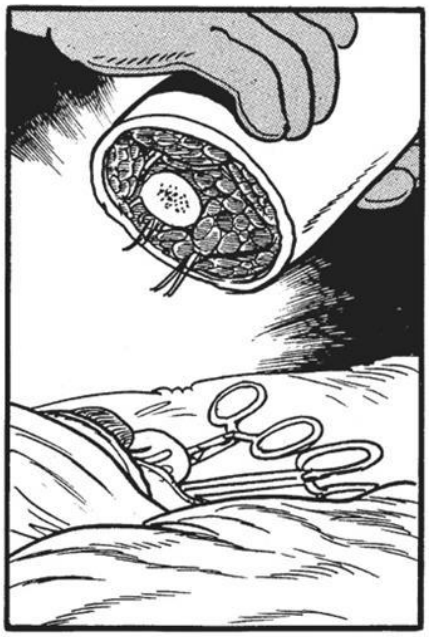
READY?
BOTH ANSWERED THE FIRST PROBLEM CORRECTLY. PROBLEM TWO!
副査

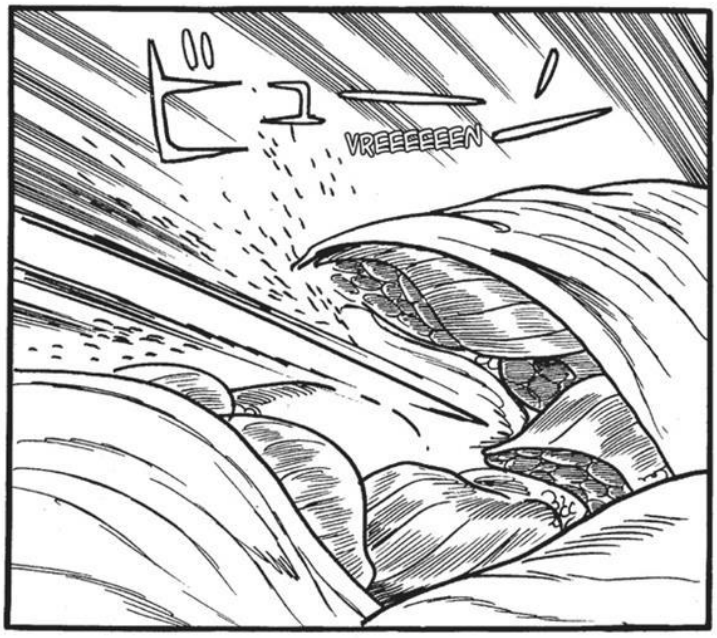
NO! MY HANDS ARE GETTING TIRED!
KLAK
KLAK
KLAK

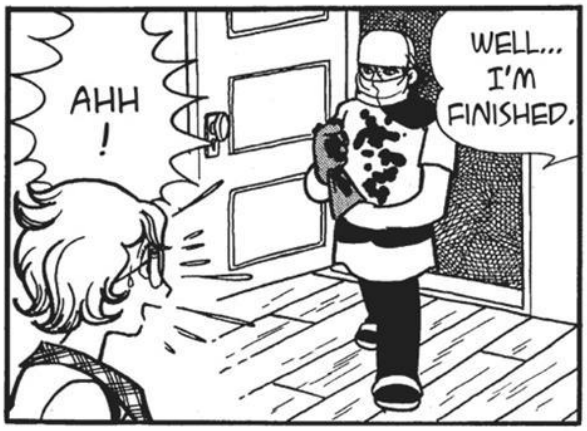

43,295,405 YEN, 28,966,141 YEN, 3,700,078 YEN, 22,519,353 YEN,
KLAK
KLAK
KLAK
KLAK

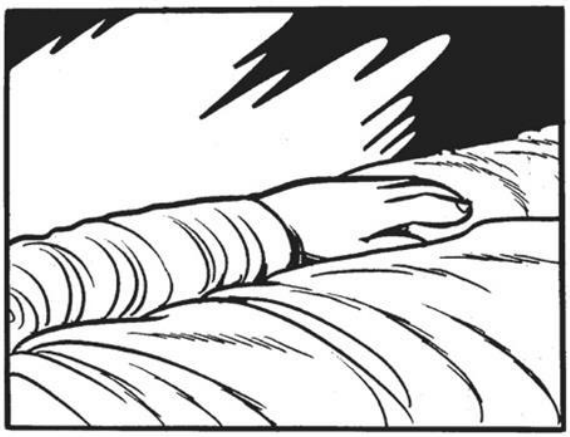
VREEEEEN

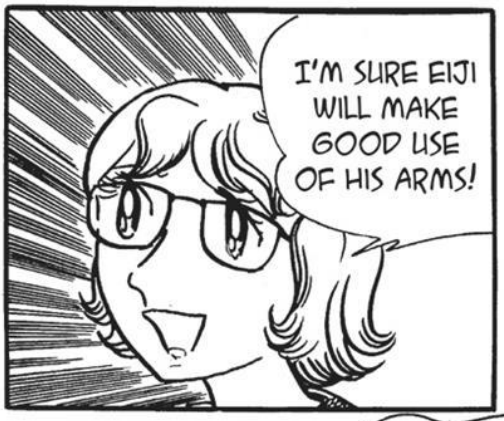


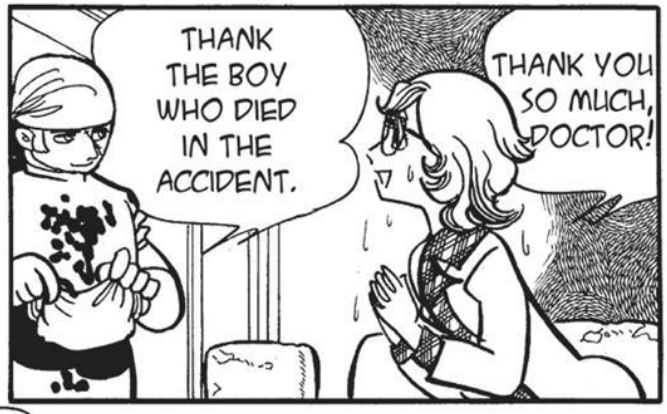


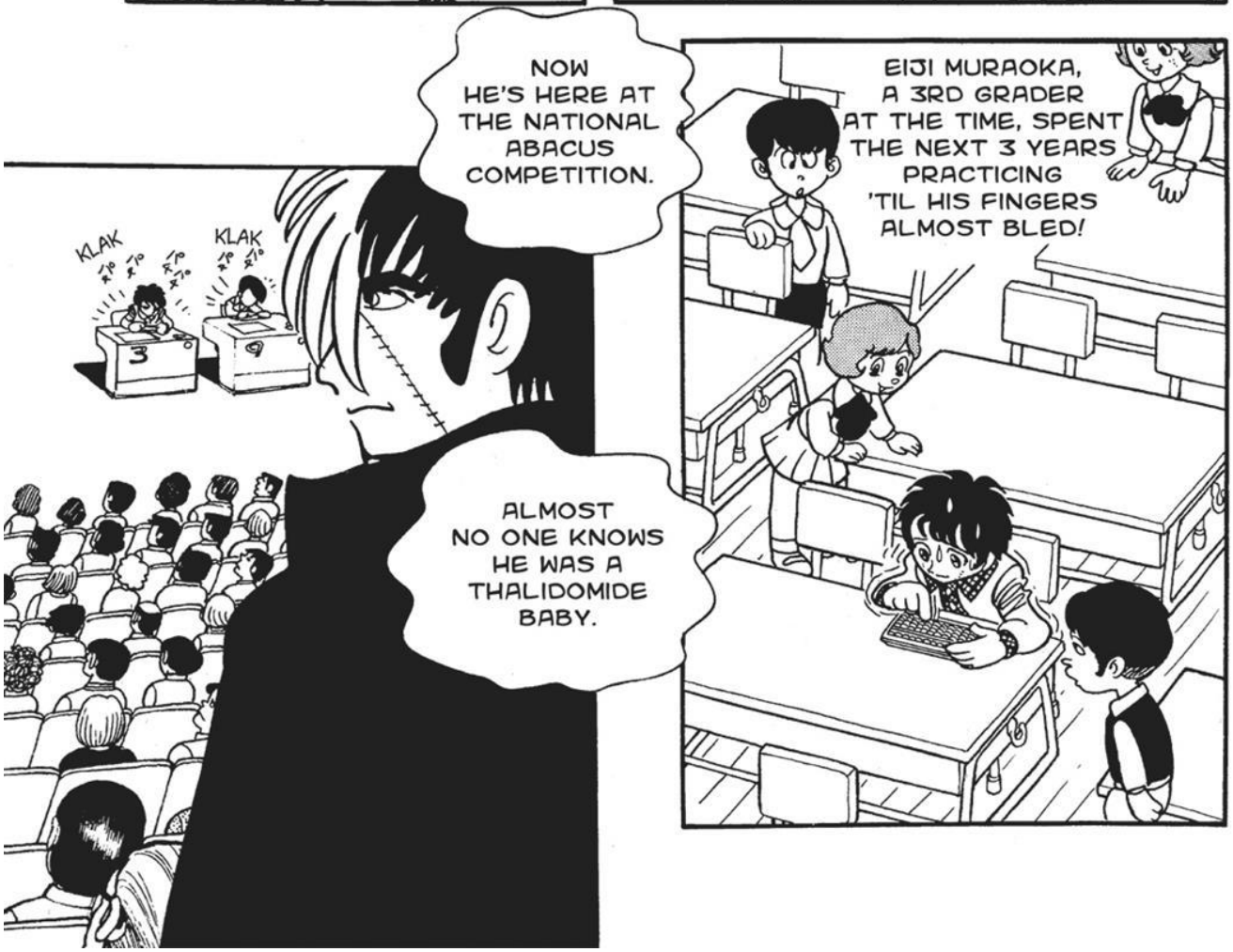

ピュー
VREEEEEEEN


AHH !
WELL... I'M FINISHED.




I'M SURE EIJI WILL MAKE GOOD USE OF HIS ARMS!


THANK THE BOY WHO DIED IN THE ACCIDENT.
THANK YOU SO MUCH, DOCTOR!


NOW HE'S HERE AT THE NATIONAL ABACUS COMPETITION.
KLAK
KLAK
ALMOST NO ONE KNOWS HE WAS A THALIDOMIDE BABY.
EIJI MURAOKA, A 3RD GRADER AT THE TIME, SPENT THE NEXT 3 YEARS PRACTICING 'TIL HIS FINGERS ALMOST BLED!

UH-OH... I CAN'T MOVE THEM QUICKLY ANYMORE...
KLAK
KLAK
KLAK
19,231,486 YEN!! THE TOTAL?
I CAN'T GO ON ...
BOTH ANSWERED THE 2ND PROBLEM CORRECTLY. 3RD PROBLEM!
I NEED TO GIVE UP... I GOT MY HOPES UP TOO HIGH.
M-MY FIN-GERS ...
UNLESS...
MAY I ASK FOR

39,886,795 YEN!
21,127,531 YEN!
46, 178,536 YEN!

KLAK
KLAK
KLAK
KLAK
KLAK

AH!
WOW!
OOH!

WHOA!!!

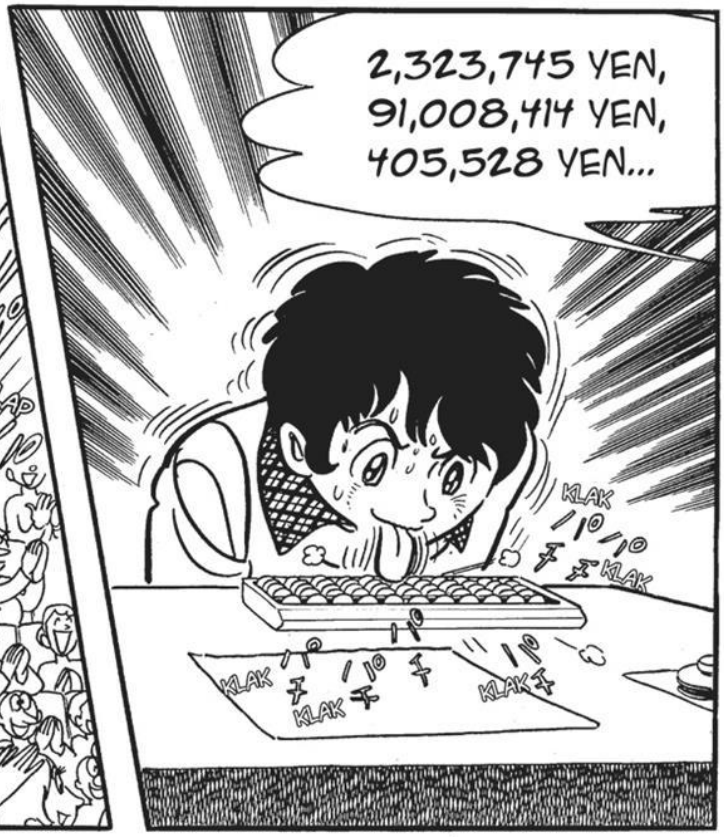
THIS ISN'T SOME FREAK SHOW.
BUT ISN'T USING YOUR TONGUE AGAINST THE RULES?

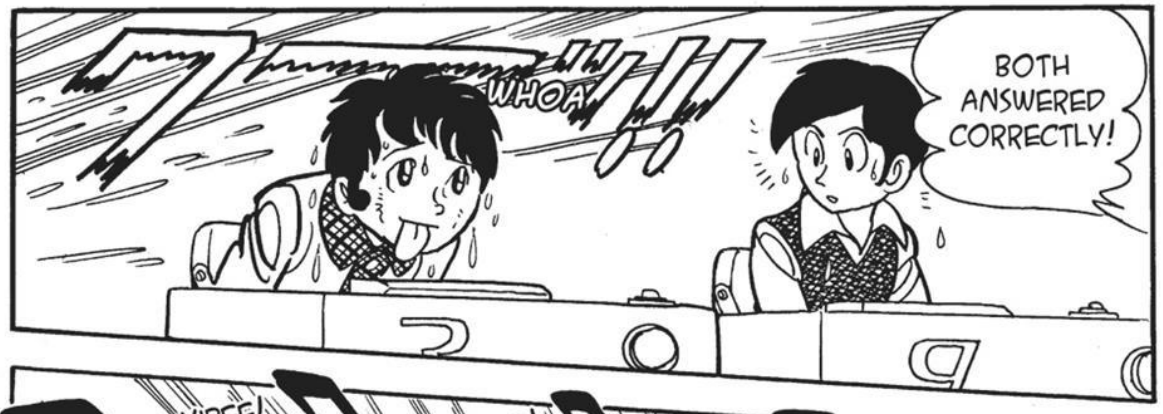
IT'S FINE, PLEASE CONTINUE.
OOH
AHH
WHOA
...

43,259,697 YEN!
HUSH

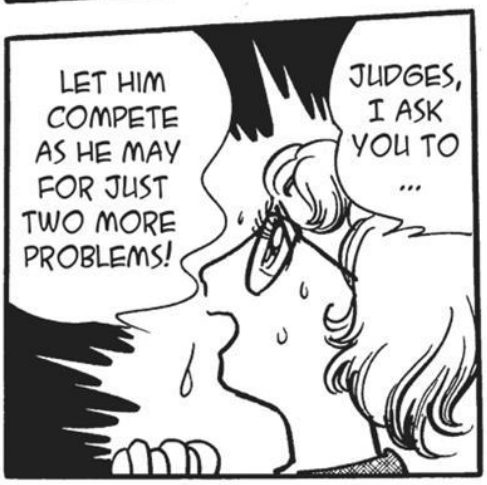
NOW RESUME READING OUT THE FIGURES.
WHOA
THE RULES DON'T SAY YOU CAN'T USE YOUR TONGUE!
AHH
OOH

CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP


2,323,745 YEN, 91,008,414 YEN, 405,528 YEN...
KLAK
KLAK
KLAK
KLAK
KLAK


WHOA
BOTH ANSWERED CORRECTLY!

WOW!
YIPEE!
WOO-HOO!
YAY!
WOW!

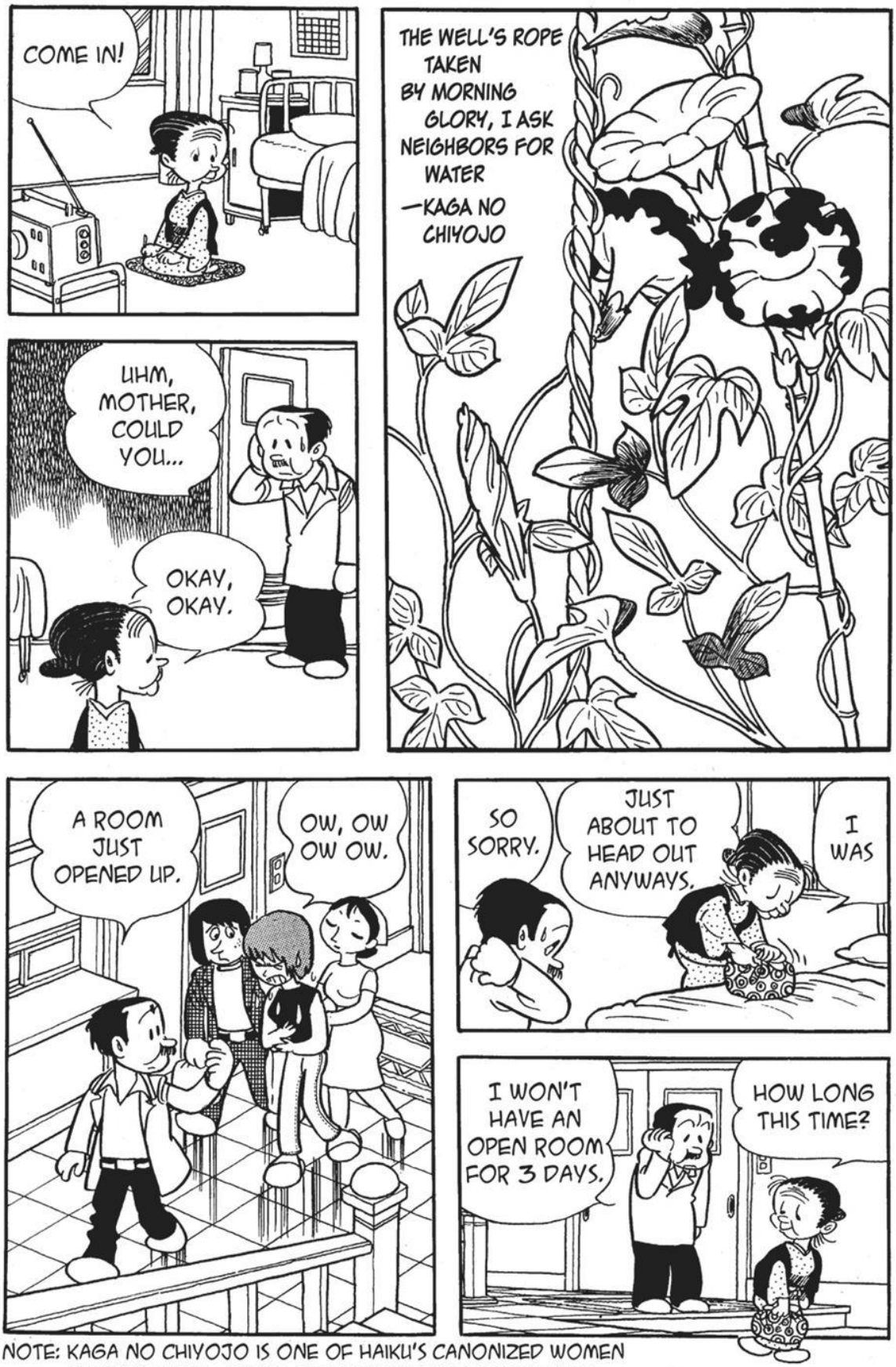

LET HIM COMPETE AS HE MAY FOR JUST TWO MORE PROBLEMS!
JUDGES, I ASK YOU TO ...

...
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
WOW

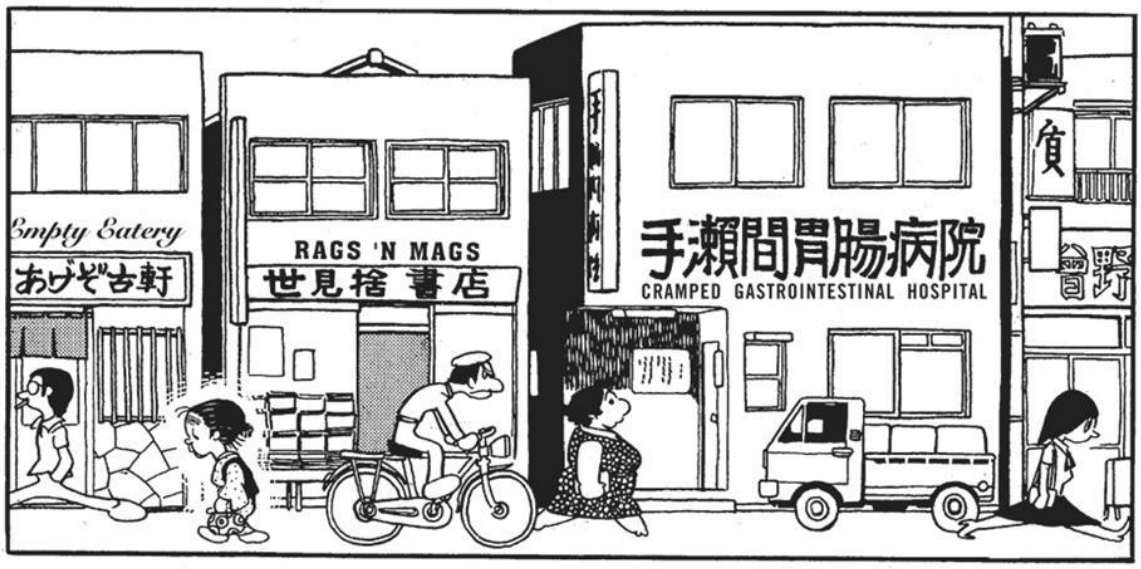
BUT BEFORE THE OPERATION, HE USED HIS TONGUE TO PRACTICE ON THE ABACUS.
THE BOY WAS BORN WITH DEFORMITIES. HE UNDERWENT AN OPERATION TO REPLACE HIS ARMS!
PEOPLE MADE FUN OF HIM, SO HE'D STOPPED USING THE ABACUS IN PUBLIC.

CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
FOURTH PROBLEM !
READY?
...

# ASKING FOR WATER




NOTE: KAGA NO CHIYOJO IS ONE OF HAIKU'S CANONIZED WOMEN PRACTITIONERS. ABOVE, SHE CHOOSES NOT TO DAMAGE THE FLOWER VINE THAT HAS OBSTRUCTED HER WELL.

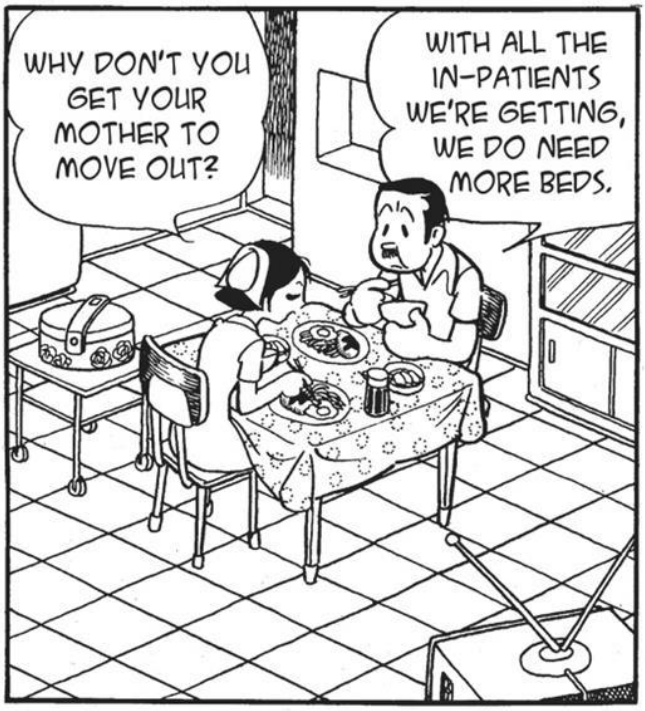

Empty Eatery
あげぞ古軒
RAGS 'N MAGS
世見捨書店
手瀬間胃腸病院
CRAMPED GASTROINTESTINAL HOSPITAL

BUT THERE'S NO SPACE TO BUILD AN ANNEX.
WE'RE SHORT ON PEOPLE AND BEDS

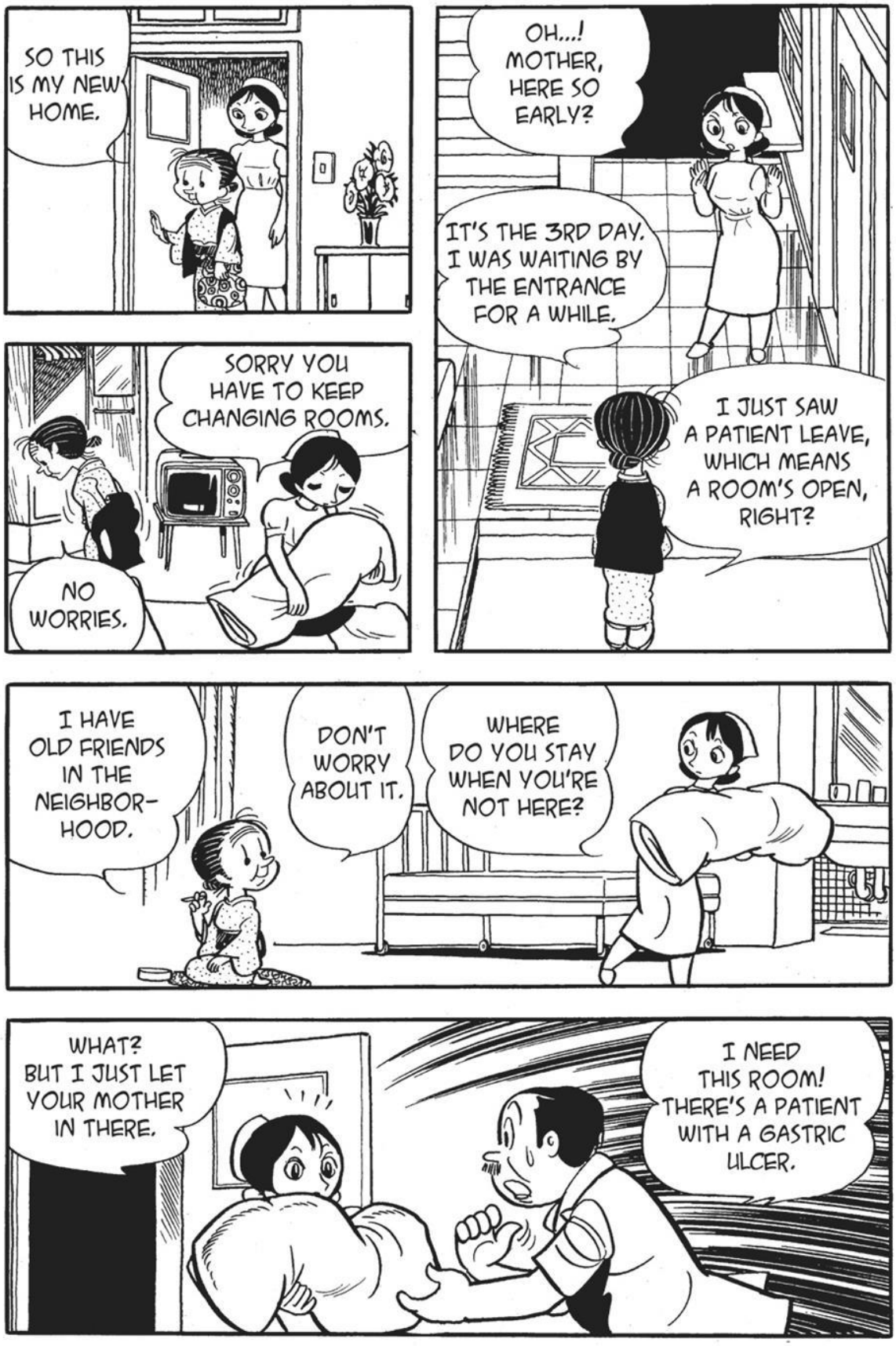
WOW, WE'RE BOOKED SOLID FOR DAYS.

DON'T SAY THAT!

BUT IT'S SUCH A WASTE TO LET HER USE A ROOM WHEN WE'RE THIS BUSY!


WHY DON'T YOU GET YOUR MOTHER TO MOVE OUT?
WITH ALL THE IN-PATIENTS WE'RE GETTING, WE DO NEED MORE BEDS.

WE'VE CUT BACK ON THE NURSES' PAY SO I'M WORKING EXTRA HARD
WHILE YOUR MOTHER JUST LOLLS ABOUT!
WELL, LET ME SAY THIS.
DON'T TALK LIKE THAT!
I PUT HER OUT FOR DAYS AT A TIME, DON'T I?
MY OWN MOTHER.
I ALWAYS HAVE HER LEAVE WHEN WE REALLY NEED AN EXTRA BED.
NURSING HOMES ARE PRETTY PRICEY...
WHY DON'T YOU JUST PUT HER IN HOSPICE CARE?
SHE STAYS WITH FRIENDS OR SOME-THING.
WHEW, AM I TIRED.
TAKE CARE!
THANK YOU SO MUCH!

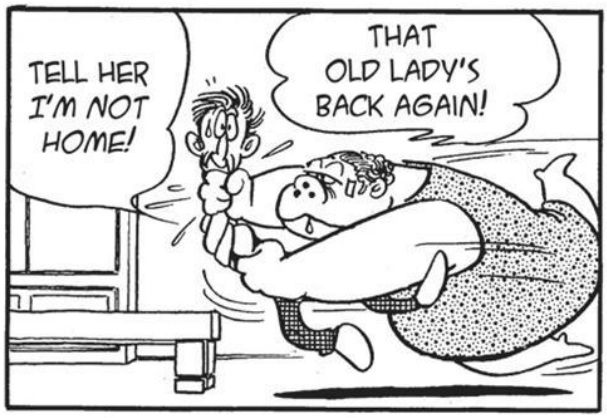

SO THIS IS MY NEW HOME.
OH...! MOTHER, HERE SO EARLY?
IT'S THE 3RD DAY. I WAS WAITING BY THE ENTRANCE FOR A WHILE.
I JUST SAW A PATIENT LEAVE, WHICH MEANS A ROOM'S OPEN, RIGHT?
SORRY YOU HAVE TO KEEP CHANGING ROOMS.
NO WORRIES.
I HAVE OLD FRIENDS IN THE NEIGHBOR-HOOD.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
WHERE DO YOU STAY WHEN YOU'RE NOT HERE?
WHAT? BUT I JUST LET YOUR MOTHER IN THERE.
I NEED THIS ROOM! THERE'S A PATIENT WITH A GASTRIC ULCER.

DON'T WORRY.
OKAY, OKAY.

MOTHER, I NEED TO USE THIS ROOM. I'M SORRY.
IT'S URGENT!

I WONDER WHO I SHOULD CALL ON THIS TIME ...

HOW LONG SHOULD I BE GONE THIS TIME?
IT'LL BE 2 DAYS 'TIL WE HAVE A FREE BED.
OWIE!
OINK!!
QUICK, TO THE O.R.!


TELL HER I'M NOT HOME!
THAT OLD LADY'S BACK AGAIN!

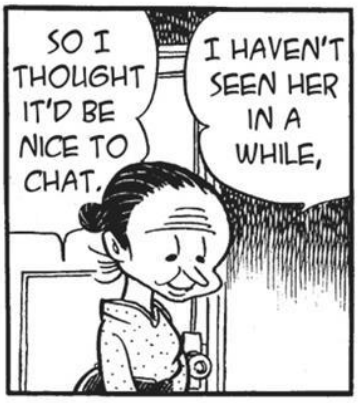
AHK!

OH, DEAR.
ER, UHM... "I'M NOT HOME!"

ANYONE HOME?
GIVE HER SOME EXCUSE 'N SEND HER AWAY!

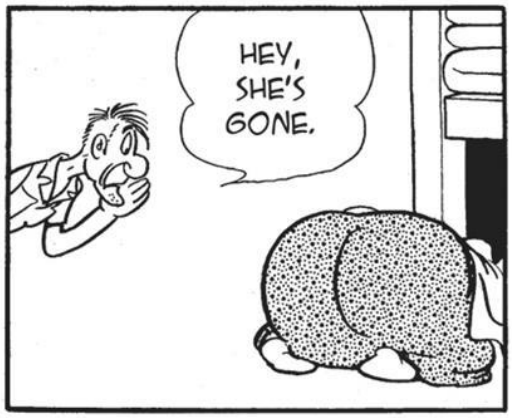
WHAT'S THAT TREMBLING THING UNDER THE CLOTH?

WELL, SHE'S NOT HERE. NEXT TIME.

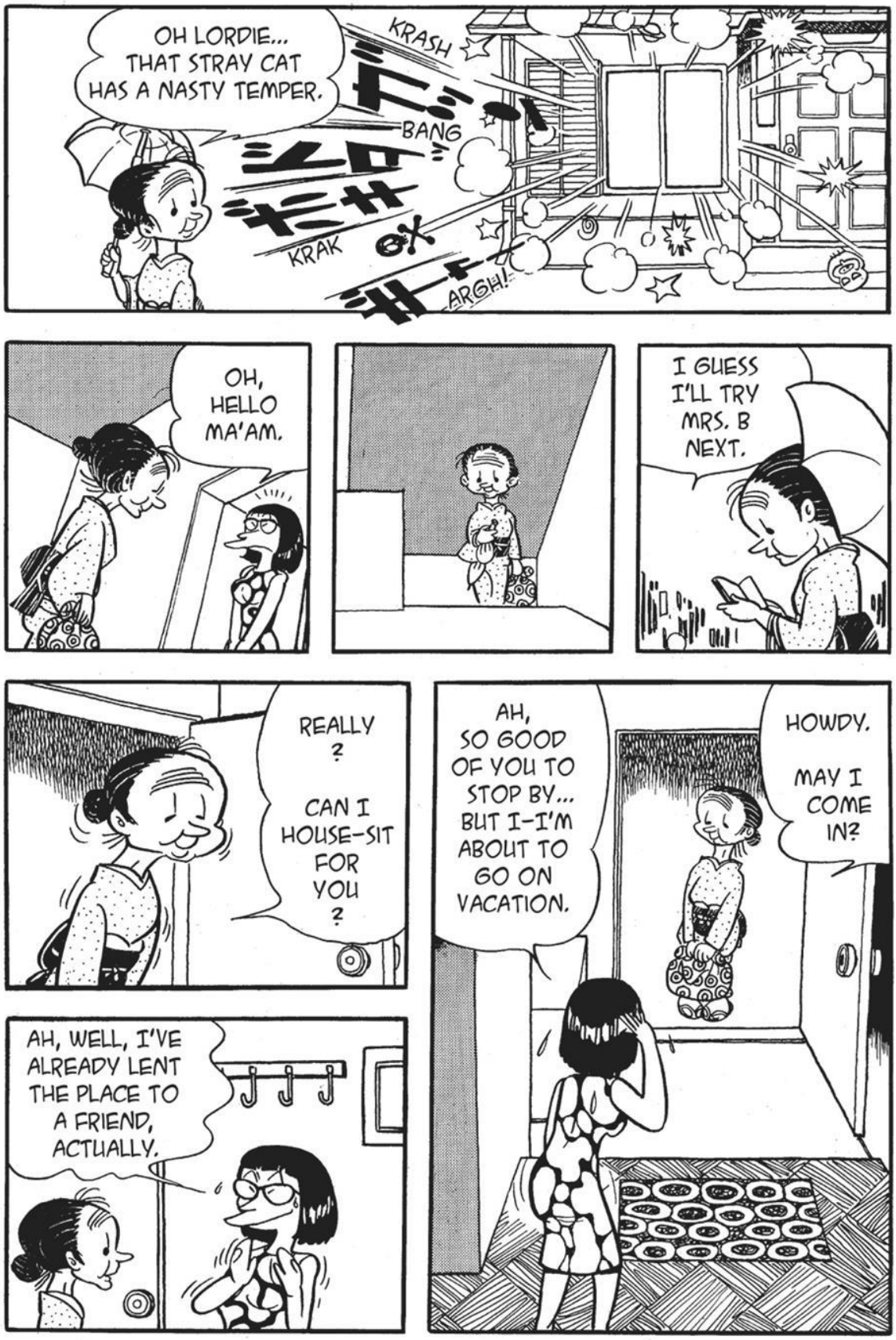

SO I THOUGHT IT'D BE NICE TO CHAT.
I HAVEN'T SEEN HER IN A WHILE,

THEY SURE GET FAT, STEALING GOOD FOOD.
YES, STRAY CATS THESE DAYS.

IT'S JUST AN ILL-BEHAVED STRAY CAT THAT I TRAPPED.
OH, THIS?

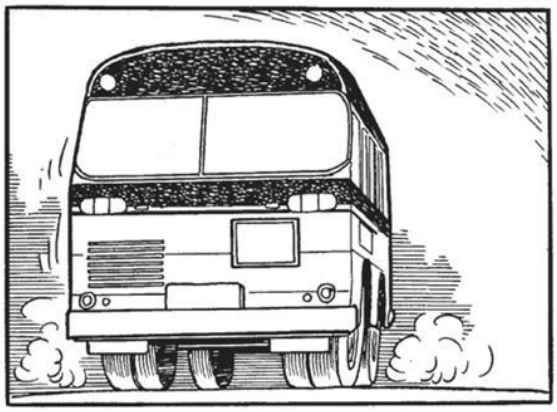

HEY, SHE'S GONE.

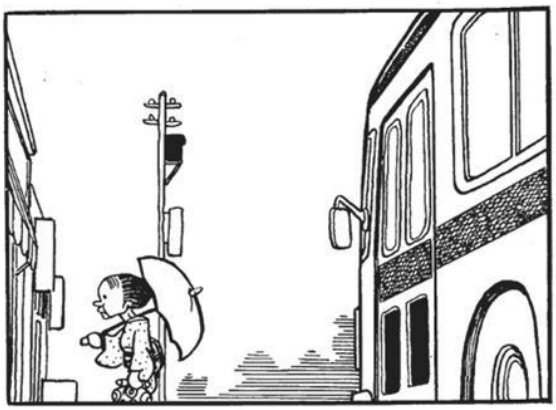
SHE SURE IS A SELFISH OLD THING!
YEAH!


OH LORDIE... THAT STRAY CAT HAS A NASTY TEMPER.
KRASH
BANG
KRAK
ARGH!
OH, HELLO MA'AM.
I GUESS I'LL TRY MRS. B NEXT.
REALLY ? CAN I HOUSE-SIT FOR YOU ?
AH, WELL, I'VE ALREADY LENT THE PLACE TO A FRIEND, ACTUALLY.
AH, SO GOOD OF YOU TO STOP BY... BUT I-I'M ABOUT TO GO ON VACATION.
HOWDY. MAY I COME IN?

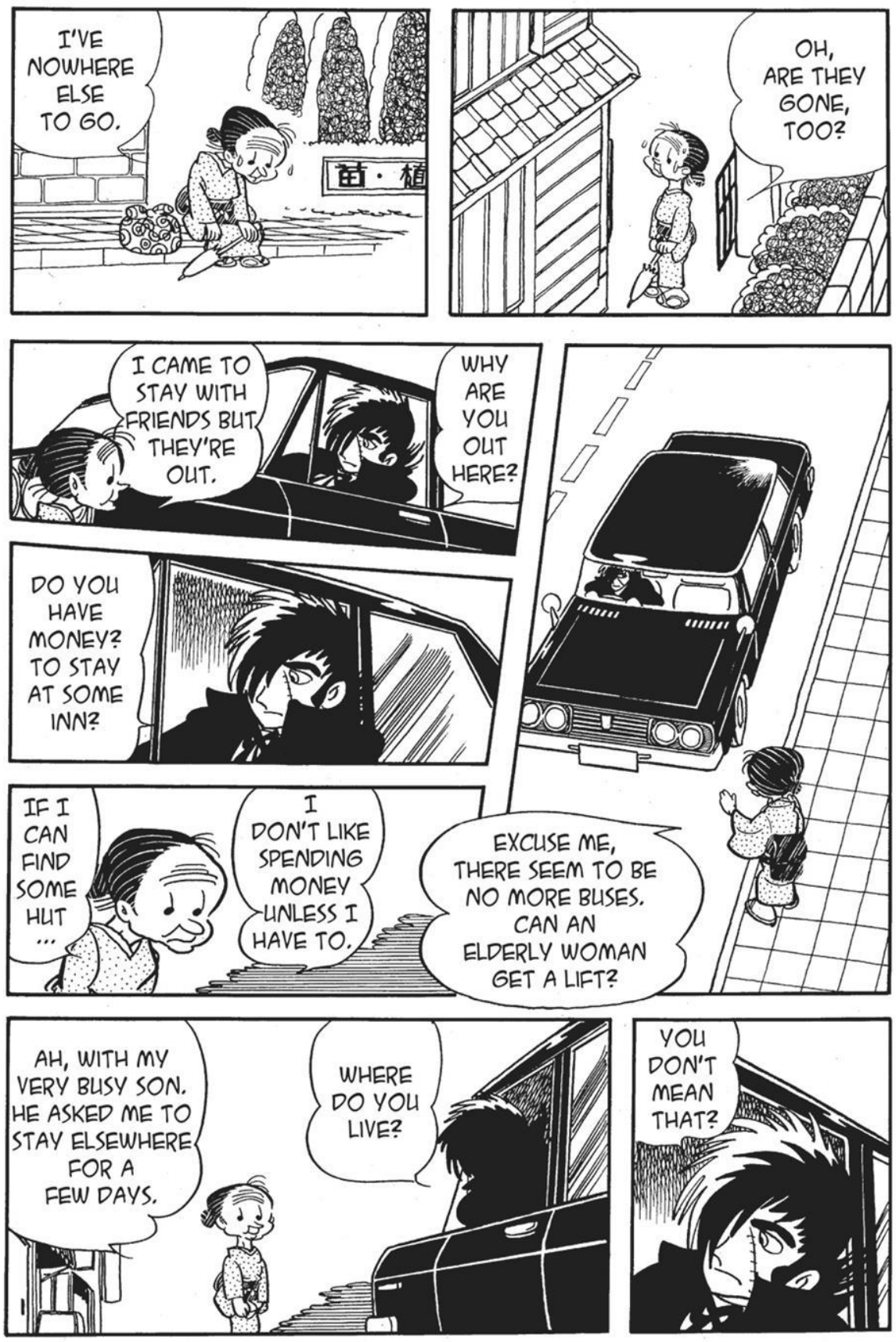
I'VE KNOWN HER FOREVER BUT SHE'LL ASK TO STAY THE NIGHT. IT'S A BOTHER.
IT WAS THAT OLD WOMAN AGAIN.
WHO WAS IT?

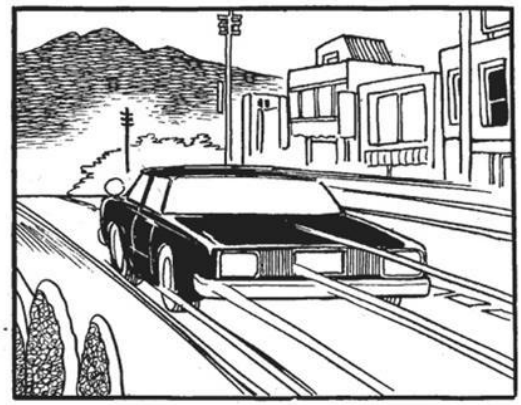
EVERY-ONE ELSE IS FAR AWAY.
SCRATCH THOSE TWO ...
LOOKS LIKE SHE'S OUT TRYING TO FIND A PLACE TO STAY AGAIN.





IT'S SUCH HARD WORK HOPPING ABOUT FOR PLACES TO STAY.
BUS


I'VE NOWHERE ELSE TO GO.
苗・植
OH, ARE THEY GONE, TOO?
I CAME TO STAY WITH FRIENDS BUT THEY'RE OUT.
WHY ARE YOU OUT HERE?
DO YOU HAVE MONEY? TO STAY AT SOME INN?
IF I CAN FIND SOME HUT ...
I DON'T LIKE SPENDING MONEY UNLESS I HAVE TO.
EXCUSE ME, THERE SEEM TO BE NO MORE BUSES. CAN AN ELDERLY WOMAN GET A LIFT?
AH, WITH MY VERY BUSY SON. HE ASKED ME TO STAY ELSEWHERE FOR A FEW DAYS.
WHERE DO YOU LIVE?
YOU DON'T MEAN THAT?



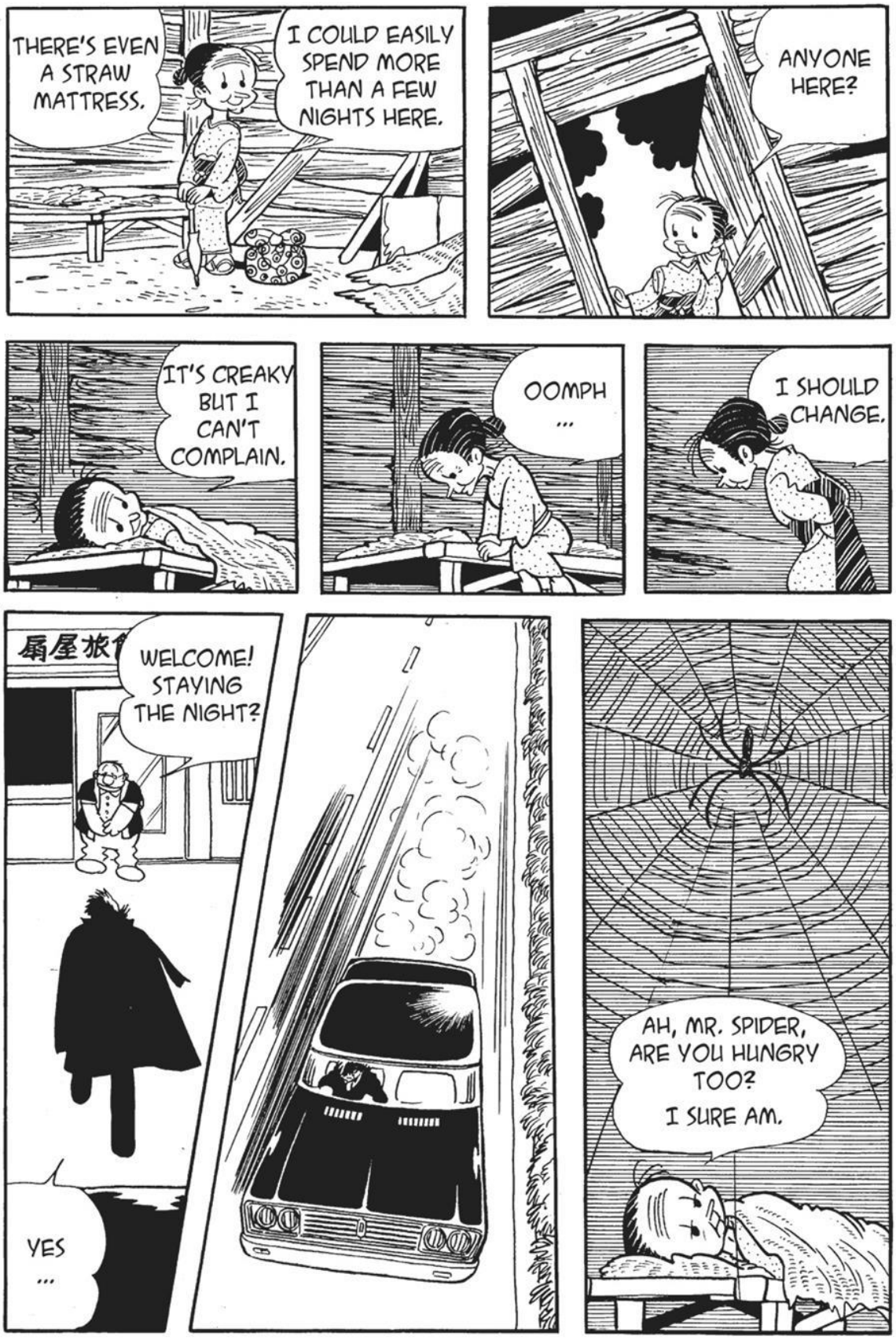
PLEASE GET IN.

HE RUNS THE ONLY GASTRO-INTESTINAL HOSPITAL IN TOWN.

I'M FINE WITH IT. MY SON'S BUSINESS IS PROSPERING.

I CAN'T SAY NO TO HIM. A NIGHT IN THE WOODS IS FINE.
THANKS FOR THE RIDE. I'LL BE FINE.
DON'T BE FOOLISH! GO STRAIGHT HOME!

MA'AM, I JUST REMEMBERED AN OLD HAIKU.
"THE WELL'S ROPE TAKEN BY MORNING GLORY, I ASK NEIGHBORS FOR WATER."
YOUR HOME HAS BEEN USURPED, SO YOU HAVE TO BEG FOR SHELTER.


THERE'S EVEN A STRAW MATTRESS.
I COULD EASILY SPEND MORE THAN A FEW NIGHTS HERE.
ANYONE HERE?
IT'S CREAKY BUT I CAN'T COMPLAIN.
OOMPH ...
I SHOULD CHANGE.
扇屋旅
WELCOME! STAYING THE NIGHT?
YES ...
AH, MR. SPIDER, ARE YOU HUNGRY TOO?
I SURE AM.

I WASN'T EXPECTING TO STAY THE NIGHT.
NO, JUST PASSING THROUGH.
DO YOU HAVE BUSINESS IN THIS TOWN?

...

CUT IT OUT.

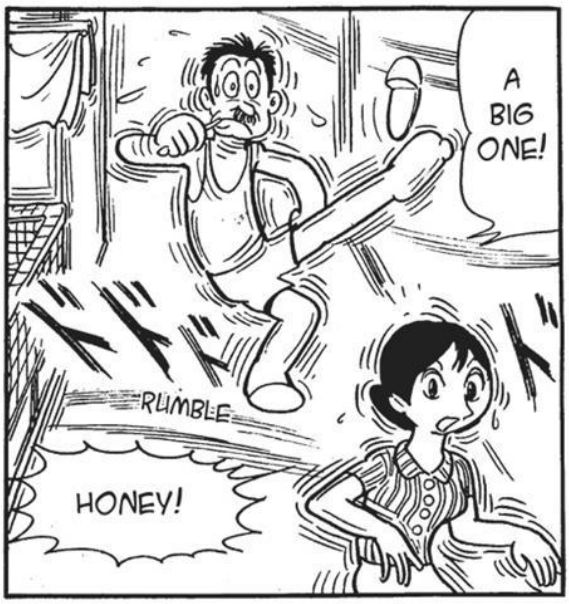
WELL, IF YOU LIKE, THERE'S A REALLY NICE GIRL...
O-HO!

MUH
MHH
UHH... HRRG... UH...

MOTHER!

MUH... UHH... GUH...

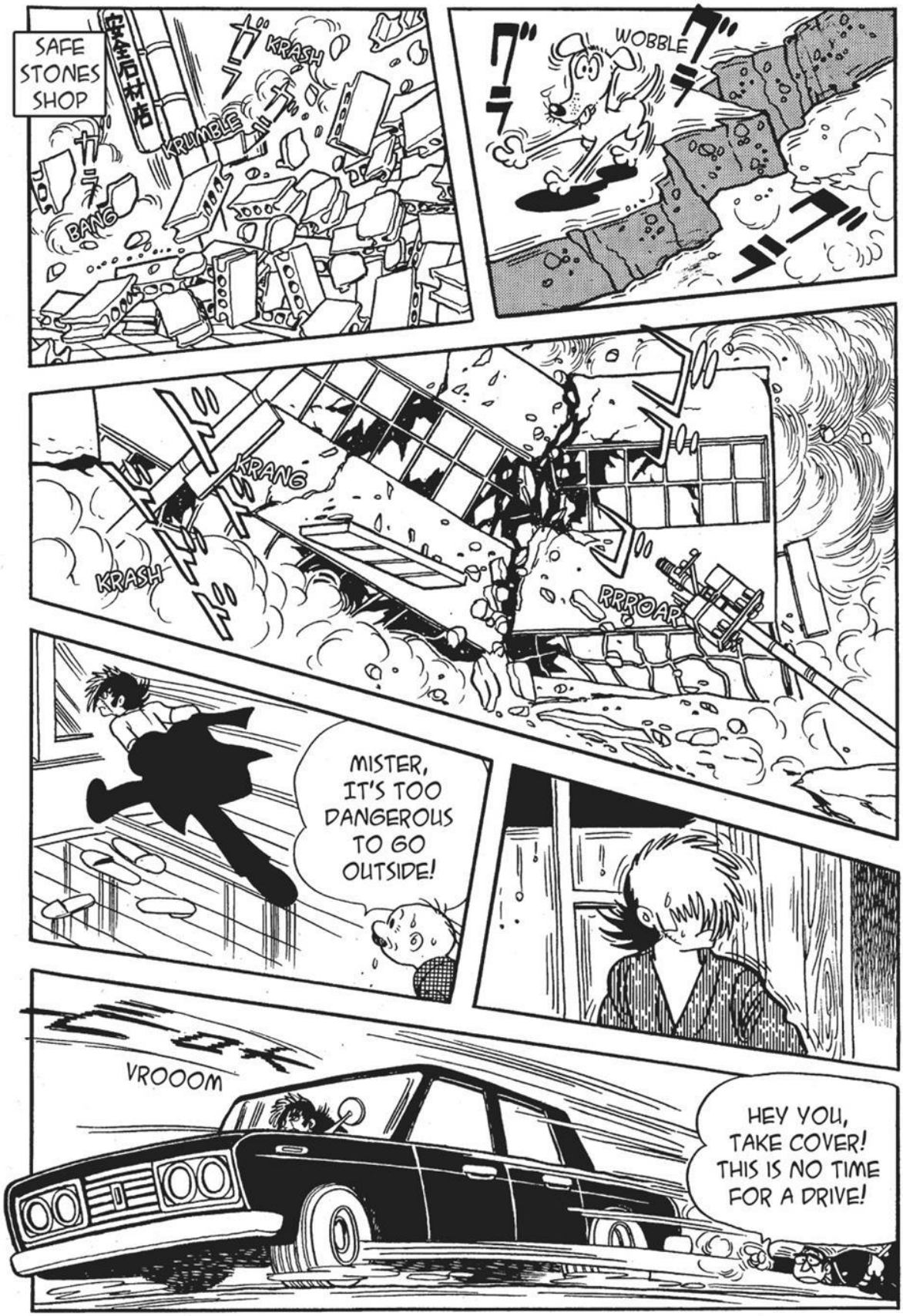
I HAVEN'T BEEN THIS UPSET IN A LONG TIME.

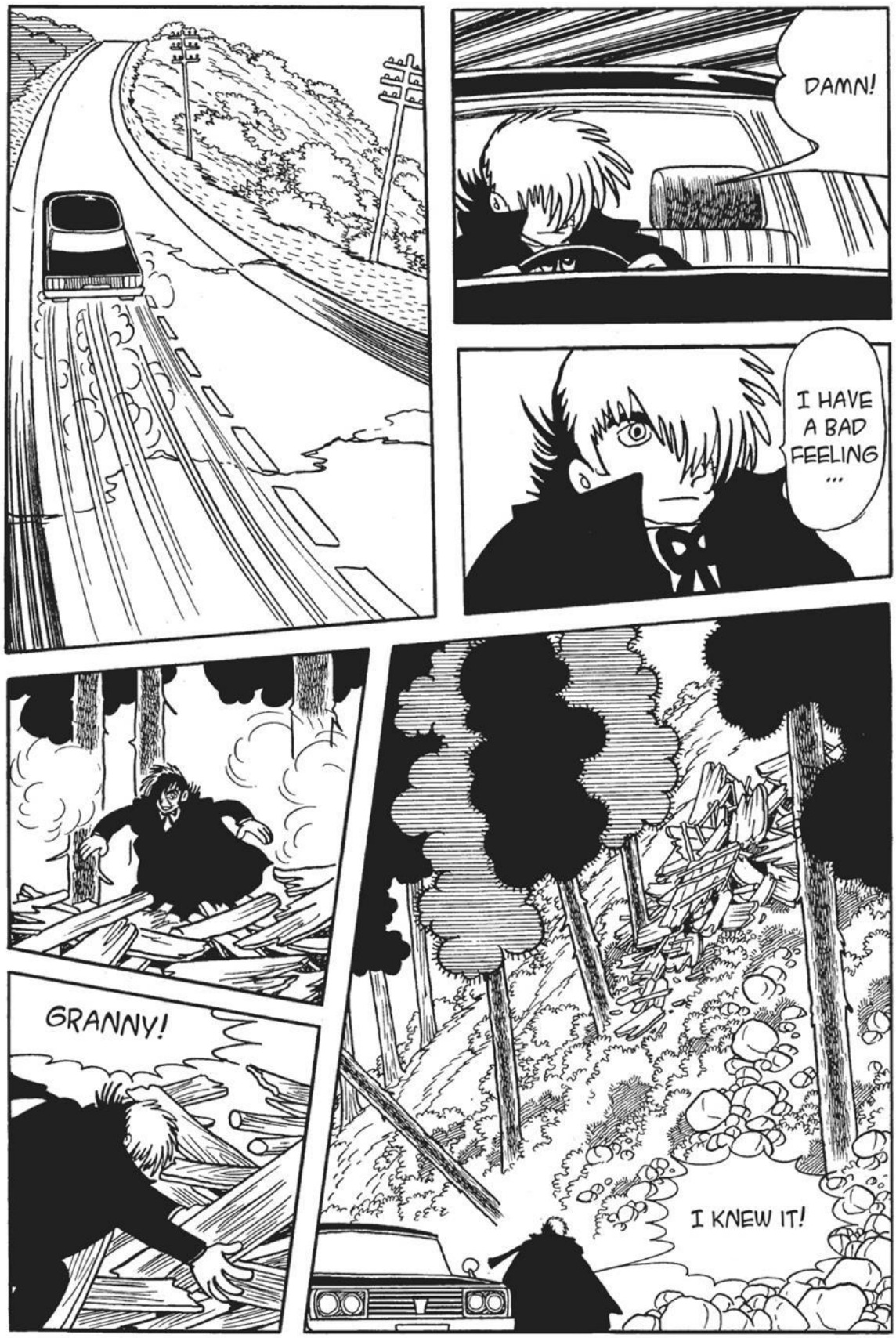

A BIG ONE!
ドドドド
RUMBLE
HONEY!

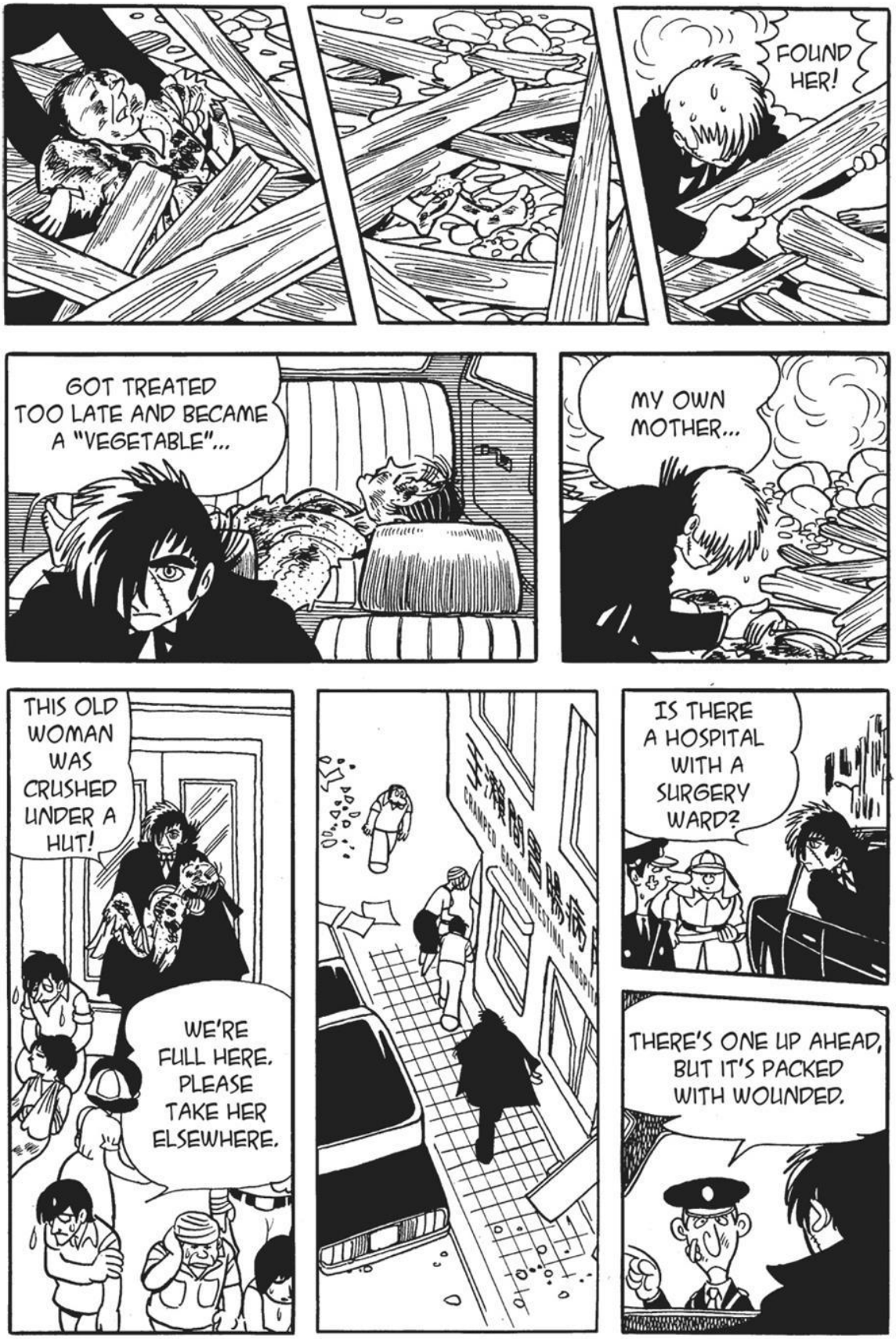
FRESHEN UP SO THE PATIENTS WON'T NOTICE.
I WAS WORRIED ABOUT MOTHER ALL NIGHT.

SHAKE
ユサ
ユサ
SHAKE
EARTH-QUAKE?
SHAKE ユサ

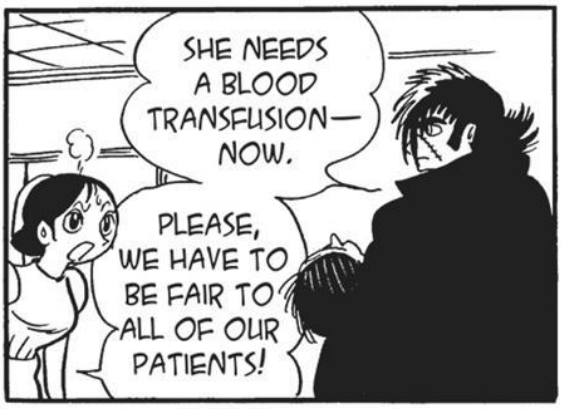
JUNE 14TH, 8:30 AM
MAGNITUDE 7.5 EARTHQUAKE
IN THE NORTHEASTERN REGION
ゴーゴーゴーゴー
RRRUUUUUMMMBLE
手瀬間病院
手瀬間胃腸病院


SAFE STONES SHOP
安全石材店
KRASH
KRUMBLE
BANG
WOBBLE
KRANG
KRASH
RRROAR
MISTER, IT'S TOO DANGEROUS TO GO OUTSIDE!
VROOOM
HEY YOU, TAKE COVER! THIS IS NO TIME FOR A DRIVE!


DAMN!
I HAVE A BAD FEELING ...
GRANNY!
I KNEW IT!


FOUND HER!
GOT TREATED TOO LATE AND BECAME A "VEGETABLE"...
MY OWN MOTHER...
THIS OLD WOMAN WAS CRUSHED UNDER A HUT!
WE'RE FULL HERE. PLEASE TAKE HER ELSEWHERE.
IS THERE A HOSPITAL WITH A SURGERY WARD?
THERE'S ONE UP AHEAD, BUT IT'S PACKED WITH WOUNDED.

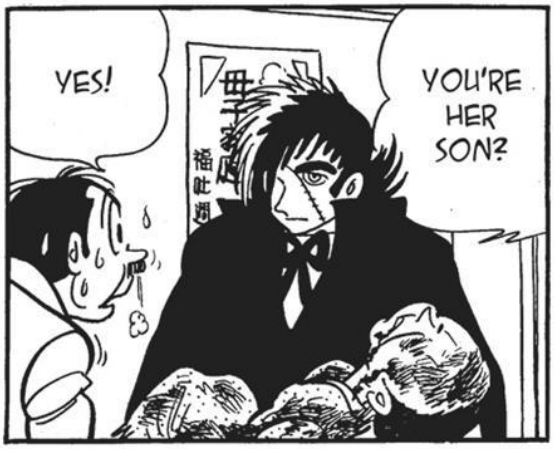
OH!


SHE NEEDS A BLOOD TRANSFUSION— NOW.
PLEASE, WE HAVE TO BE FAIR TO ALL OF OUR PATIENTS!

M-MOTHER?!

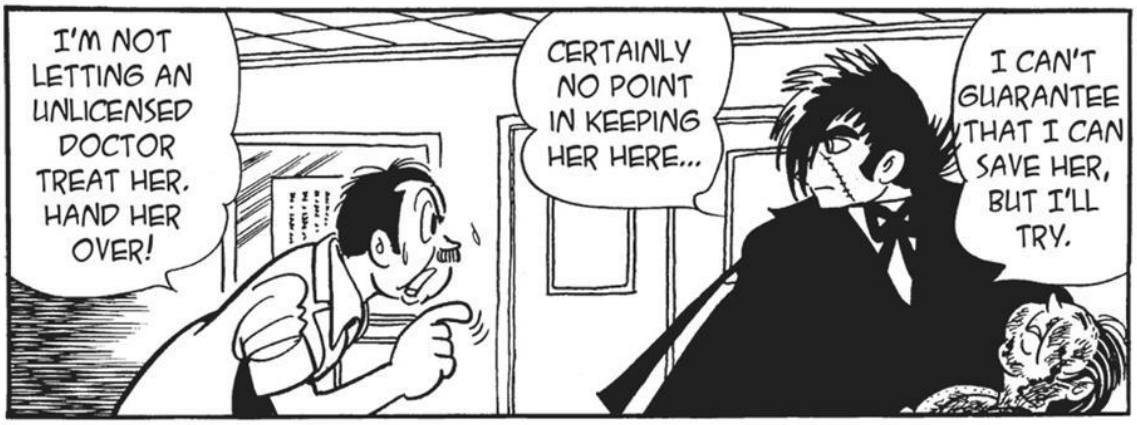
WHAT IS IT?
DEAR, COME QUICKLY!

QUICK, GET HER INTO THE O.R.!
WHERE WAS SHE?


YES!
YOU'RE HER SON?

THIS IS AWFUL!
MOTHER, WHAT HAPPENED?

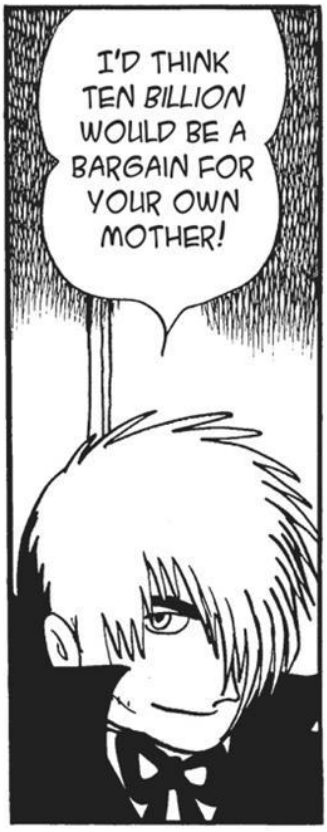
HURRY, GET HER INSIDE...
THE O.R. IS READY!
WHERE DO YOU THINK I FOUND HER? IN A HOVEL UP IN THE MOUNTAINS!
WHAT? I THOUGHT SHE WAS STAYING WITH FRIENDS...
YOU CAN'T GIVE HER SPECIAL TREATMENT, RIGHT? FAIR TO ALL PATIENTS, OR SO I HEARD.
BUT SHE'S MY MOM!
HANG ON A MINUTE.
I'LL OPERATE ON HER.
YOU'RE FULL HERE. I'LL TAKE HER ELSEWHERE FOR CARE.
"SHE'S MY MOM"? I'M SHOCKED.
SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
YOU'RE A DOCTOR?
UNLICENSED, THOUGH.
WAIT! THE OTHER HOSPITALS ARE FULL, TOO.


I'M NOT LETTING AN UNLICENSED DOCTOR TREAT HER. HAND HER OVER!
CERTAINLY NO POINT IN KEEPING HER HERE...
I CAN'T GUARANTEE THAT I CAN SAVE HER, BUT I'LL TRY.

SHE'S YOURS FOR TEN MILLION YEN.

DON'T GIVE ME THAT.
WHAT ?!

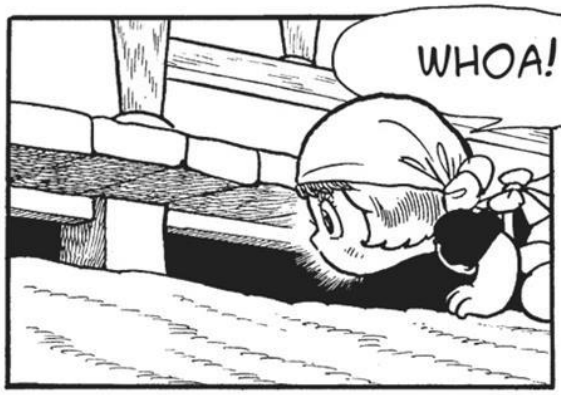
NOT FOR FREE, I WON'T.

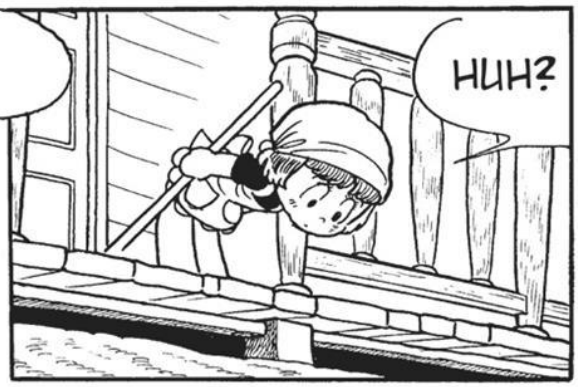

I'D THINK TEN *BILLION* WOULD BE A BARGAIN FOR YOUR OWN MOTHER!

LOOK, YOU DON'T HAVE TO PAY IF YOU DON'T WANT TO. IN THAT CASE I OPERATE ON HER.
A-ARE YOU THREATEN-ING ME...? I'M CALLING THE COPS!

# YET FALSE THE DAYS

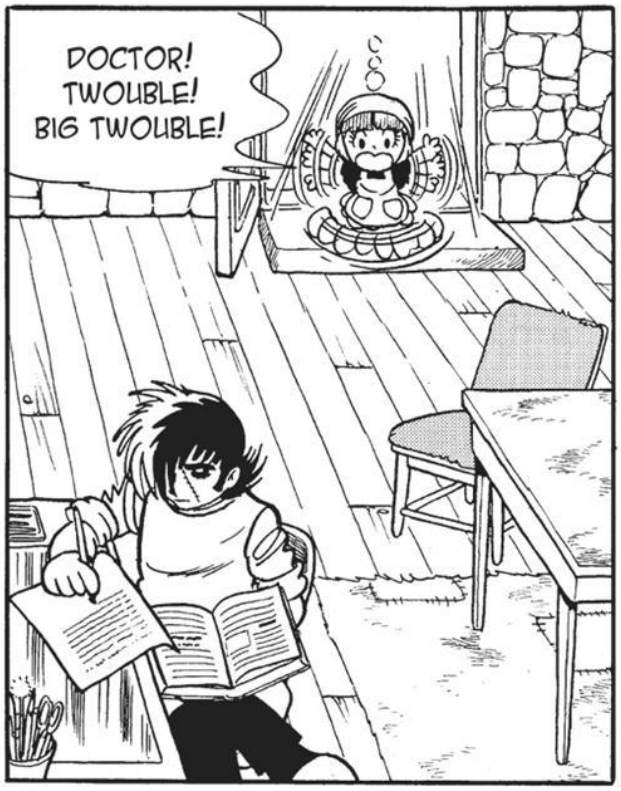
SHEE UNO ARAMANCHU! HUM-HUM

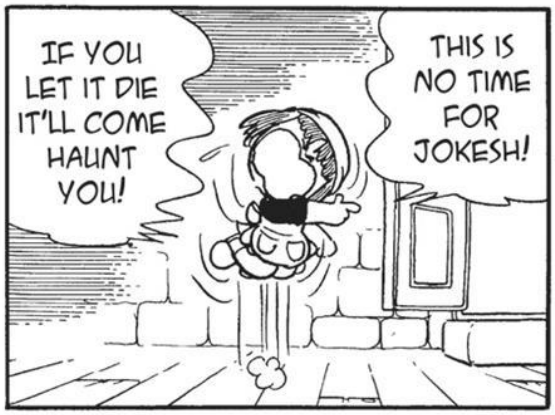

WHOA!


HUH?

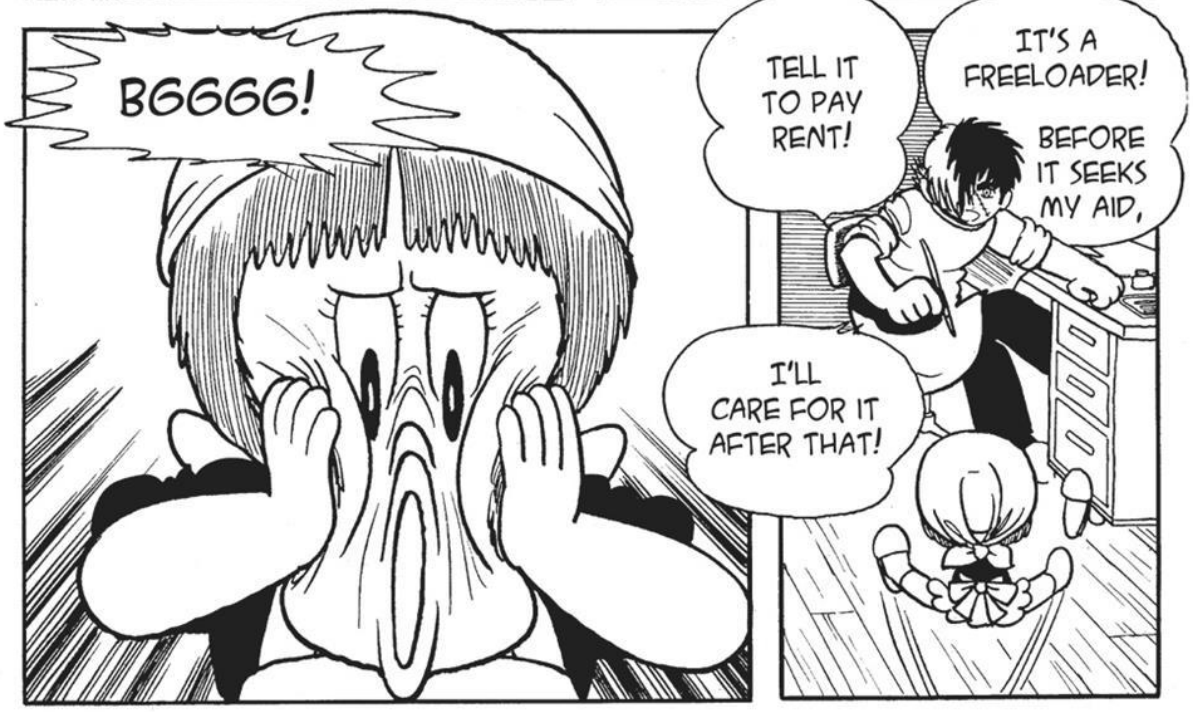
LISHEN, LISHEN TO ME! YOU KNOW THAT SHTWAY CAT UNDER THE POWCH ?

THAT CAT'S STILL THERE?
I TOLD YOU TO GET RID OF IT.


DOCTOR! TWOUBLE! BIG TWOUBLE!

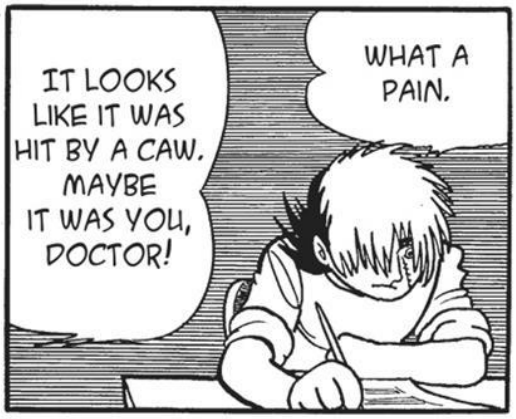

IF YOU LET IT DIE IT'LL COME HAUNT YOU!
THIS IS NO TIME FOR JOKESH!

BUT ONE OF HER KITTENS IS HUWT! IT'S GONNA DIE!
TELL HER I'LL LOOK AT IT FOR 1 MILLION.

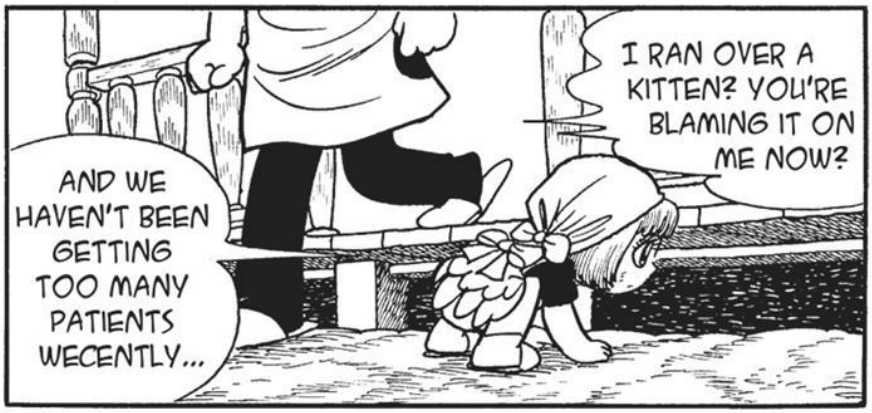

BGGGG!
TELL IT TO PAY RENT!
IT'S A FREELOADER!
BEFORE IT SEEKS MY AID,
I'LL CARE FOR IT AFTER THAT!

FSSSSSS!

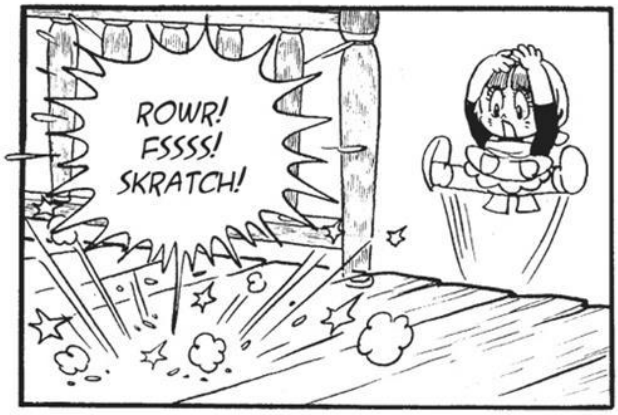
HEY, PAY YOUR WENT.


IT LOOKS LIKE IT WAS HIT BY A CAW. MAYBE IT WAS YOU, DOCTOR!
WHAT A PAIN.

DOCTOR, SHE'S WEALLY ANGWY!


AND WE HAVEN'T BEEN GETTING TOO MANY PATIENTS WECENTLY...
I RAN OVER A KITTEN? YOU'RE BLAMING IT ON ME NOW?

FSSSSS!

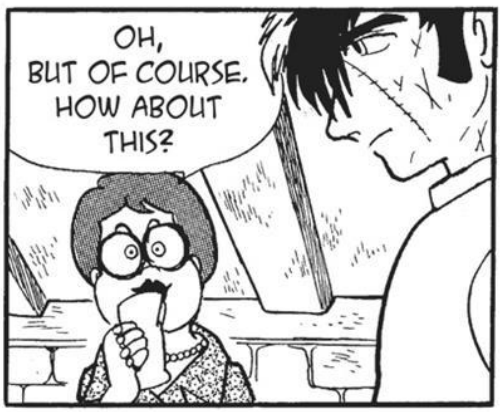

ROWR! FSSSS! SKRATCH!

SHOW ME YOUR KITTEN.

THE KITTEN'S FORELEG AND RIBS LOOK CRUSHED.
WHAT A WAY TO REWARD ME FOR MY KINDNESS ...
ARE YOU OKAY?
GIVE IT HERE, I'LL TREAT IT.
ALL THE MOTHER CAN DO IS LICK THE WOUNDS. IT WON'T SURVIVE.
FISK FISK FISSSSK!
OW! OW! OW!

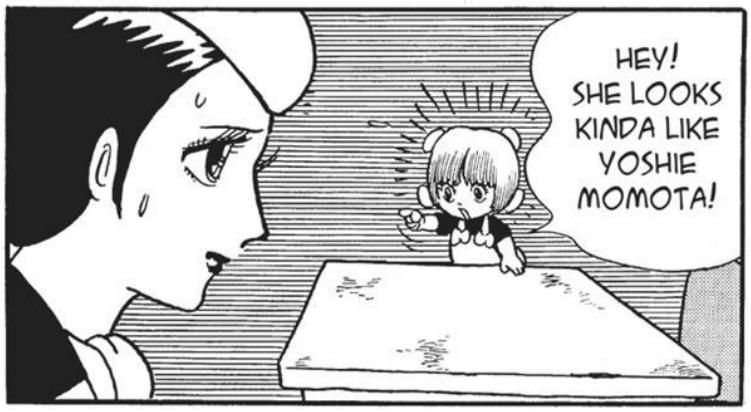
WHO'S THAT ?
I'M TRYING TO HELP YOU, STUPID!
SHTOP!
HE CAN'T BE VERY GOOD IF HE DOESN'T TREAT HIS OWN WOUNDS!
HE'S BLEED-ING!
I WAS FIGHTING WITH A STRAY CAT!
THIS IS HIM.
ARE YOU DOCTOR BLACK JACK?
UHG!
THE MASS MEDIA CAN BE SO NOSY.
I WANT YOU TO PERFORM A TOP-SECRET OPERATION. THAT'S WHY I CAME HERE.
I'M THE HEAD OF BLOWFISH PRODUCTIONS, A TOP TALENT AGENCY.
WHAT DO YOU WANT?

200 MILLION YEN.


OH, BUT OF COURSE. HOW ABOUT THIS?

IT DOESN'T MEAN I'LL DO THIS.
I KNOW HOW TO KEEP MUM.

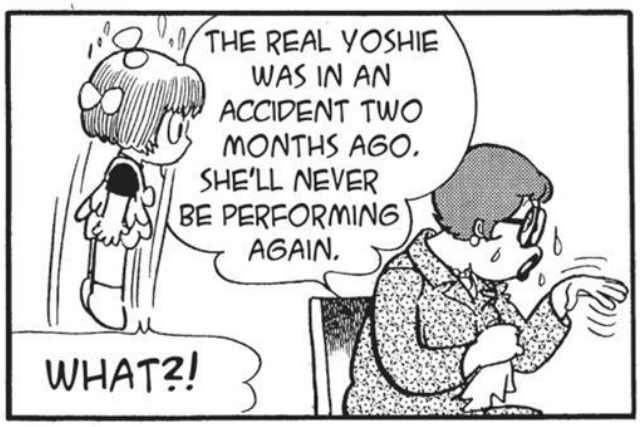
200 MILLION ??
I HAVEN'T SEEN THE PATIENT YET.
WHY ?


HEY! SHE LOOKS KINDA LIKE YOSHIE MOMOTA!

WE WANT YOU TO MAKE HER LOOK LIKE SOMEONE ELSE.

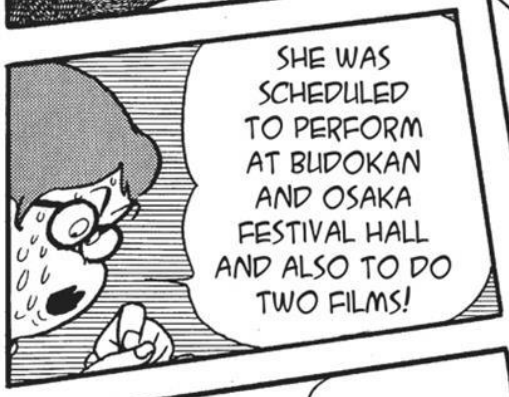
WE WANT YOU TO MAKE HER LOOK EXACTLY
LIKE HER ...

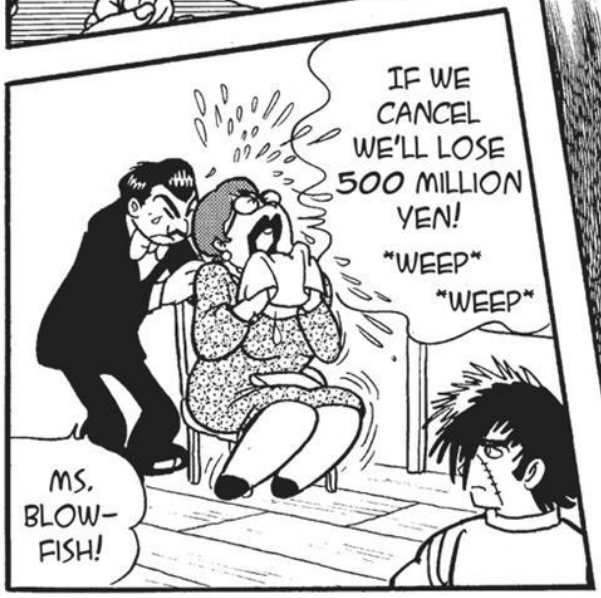
HM, I THOUGHT SHE LOOKED FAMILIAR.

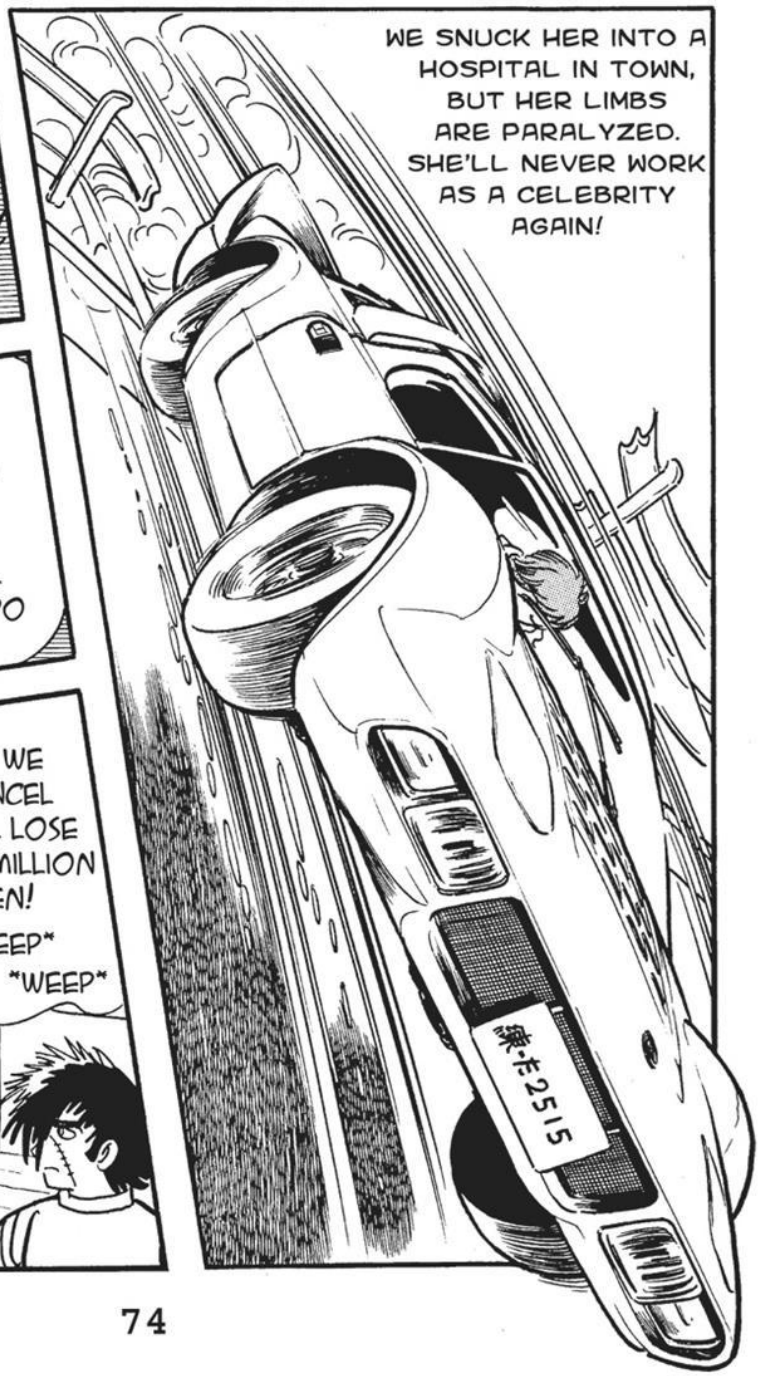

THE REAL YOSHIE WAS IN AN ACCIDENT TWO MONTHS AGO. SHE'LL NEVER BE PERFORMING AGAIN.
WHAT?!

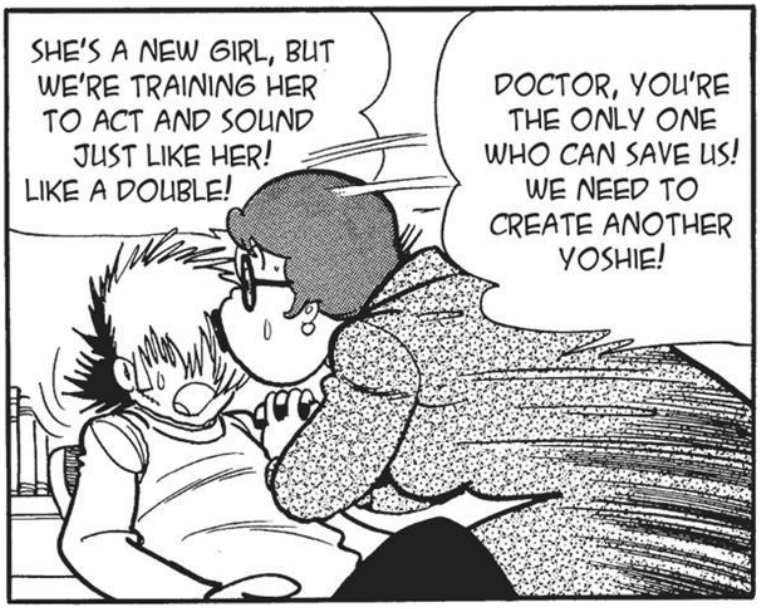
THE REAL YOSHIE WON'T FORGIVE YOU FOR MAKING A COPY.

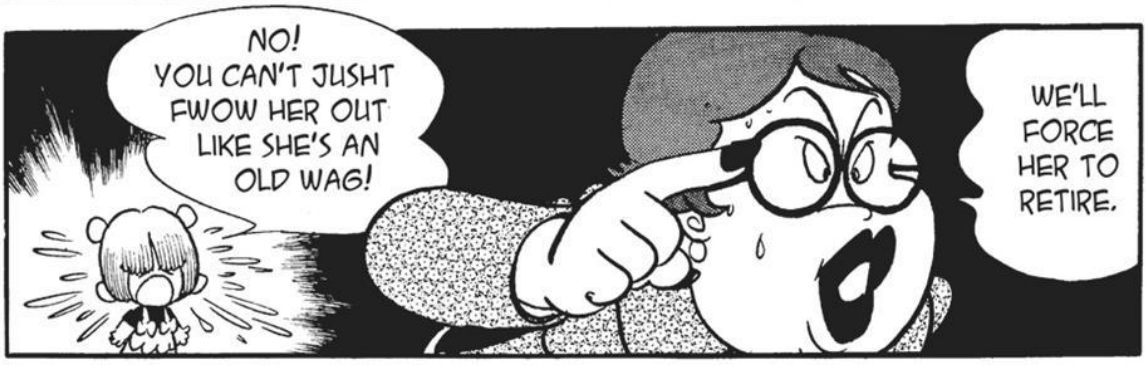
SO?

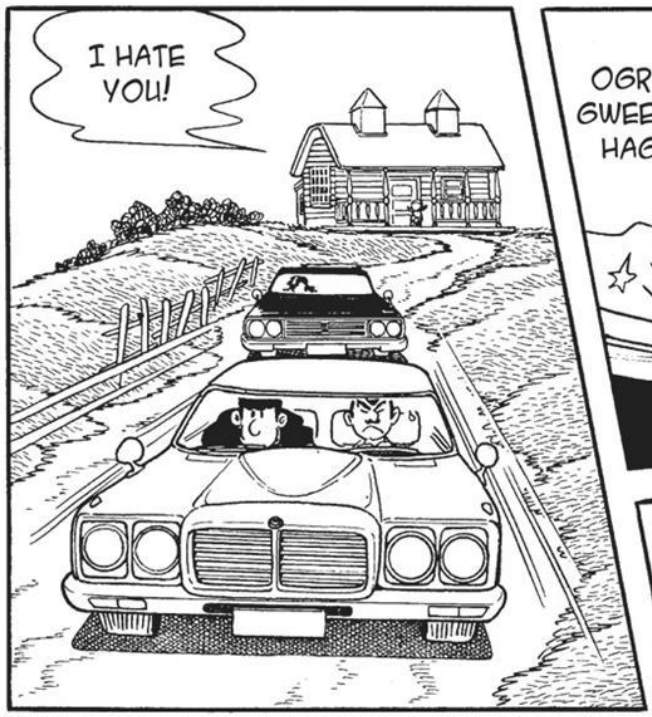

SHE WAS SCHEDULED TO PERFORM AT BUDOKAN AND OSAKA FESTIVAL HALL AND ALSO TO DO TWO FILMS!


IF WE CANCEL WE'LL LOSE 500 MILLION YEN!
"WEEP"
"WEEP"
MS. BLOW-FISH!


WE SNUCK HER INTO A HOSPITAL IN TOWN, BUT HER LIMBS ARE PARALYZED. SHE'LL NEVER WORK AS A CELEBRITY AGAIN!
練-ま-2515



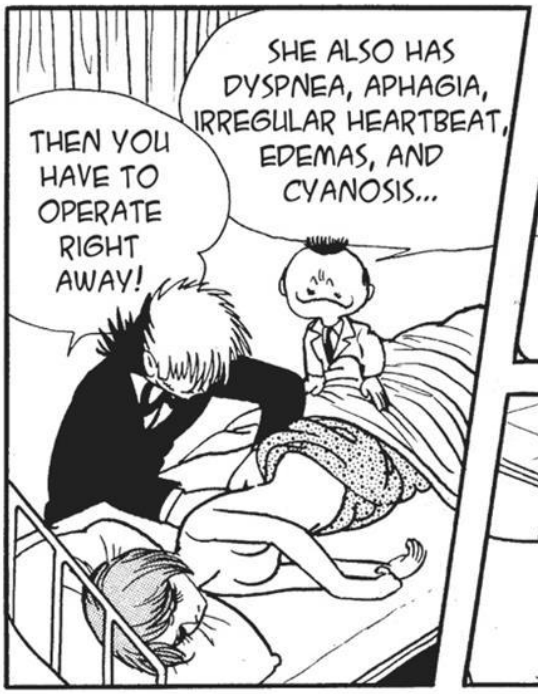



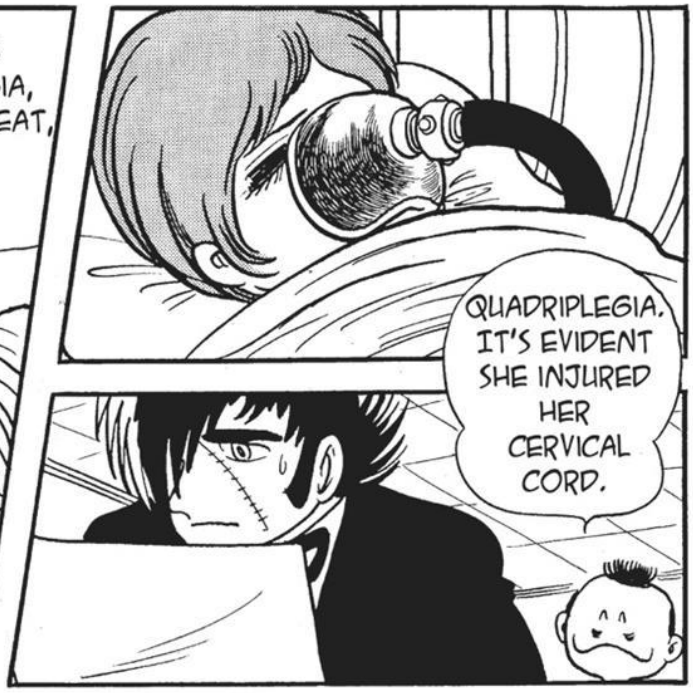



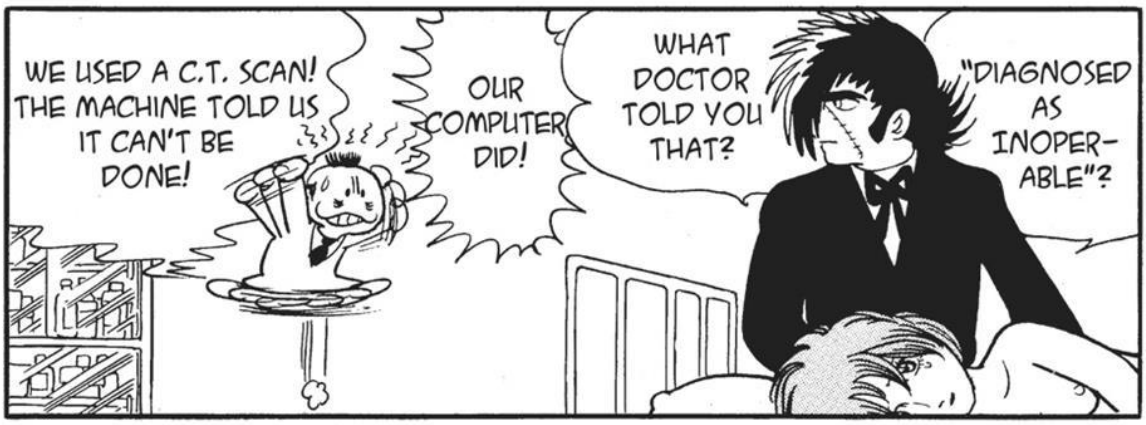
NOTE: SINGER MOMOE YAMAGUCHI WAS UNIMPEACHABLE AS THE REIGNING "IDOL" OF THE 70S; THOUGH HER ERA ENDED IN 1980 WITH HER MARRIAGE AND RETIREMENT, SHE HAS NEVER QUITE BEEN FORGOTTEN UNTO THIS DAY.

三流病院
3RD RATE HOSPITAL

THIS IS HER.


SHE ALSO HAS DYSPNEA, APHAGIA, IRREGULAR HEARTBEAT, EDEMAS, AND CYANOSIS...
THEN YOU HAVE TO OPERATE RIGHT AWAY!


QUADRIPLEGIA. IT'S EVIDENT SHE INJURED HER CERVICAL CORD.

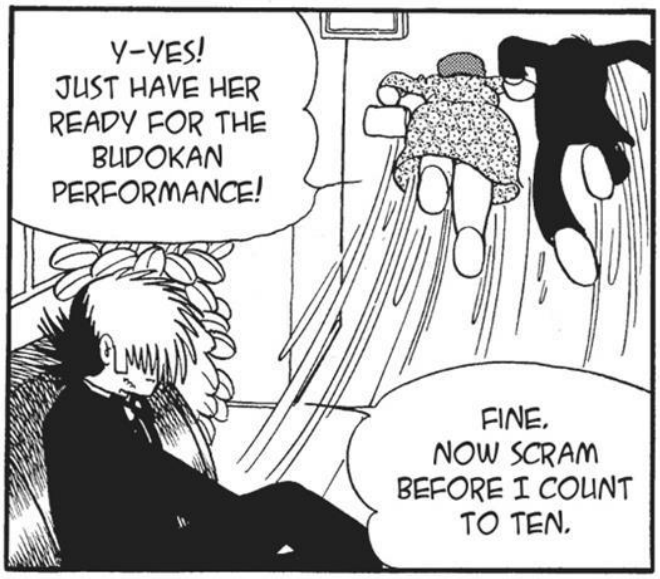

WE USED A C.T. SCAN! THE MACHINE TOLD US IT CAN'T BE DONE!
OUR COMPUTER DID!
WHAT DOCTOR TOLD YOU THAT?
"DIAGNOSED AS INOPER-ABLE"?

ON ONE CON-DITION.
SO WILL YOU PERFORM THE PLASTIC SURGERY?

YOU SEE, DOCTOR? IT'S HOPELESS.
SO IT WOULD SEEM.

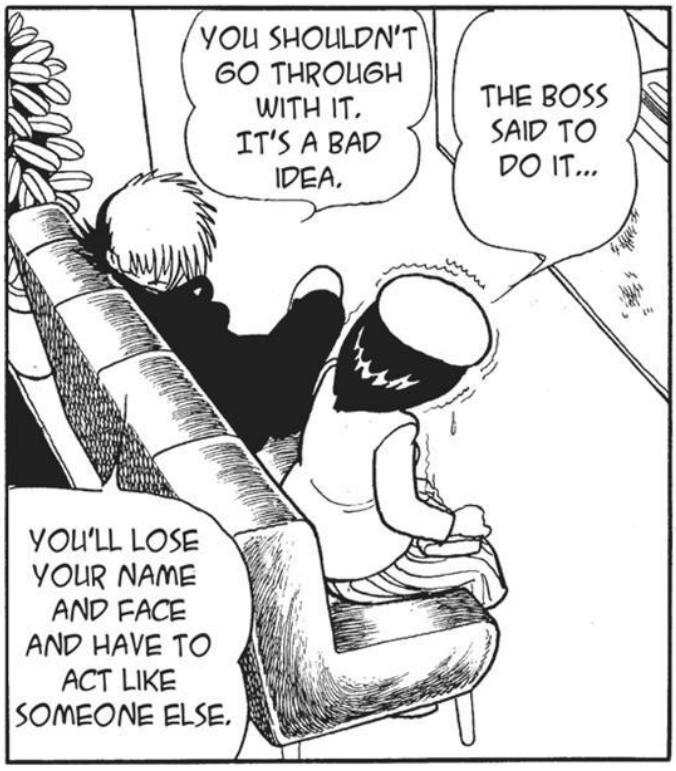
I'M AN UNDERGROUND SURGEON. I MIGHT DO SOMETHING CRAZY. CAN YOU TAKE FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE OUTCOME?

SIT DOWN, I SAID.
SIT.


Y-YES! JUST HAVE HER READY FOR THE BUDOKAN PERFORMANCE!
FINE. NOW SCRAM BEFORE I COUNT TO TEN.

AFRAID OF SURGERY?
...

YOU'RE TREM-BLING.

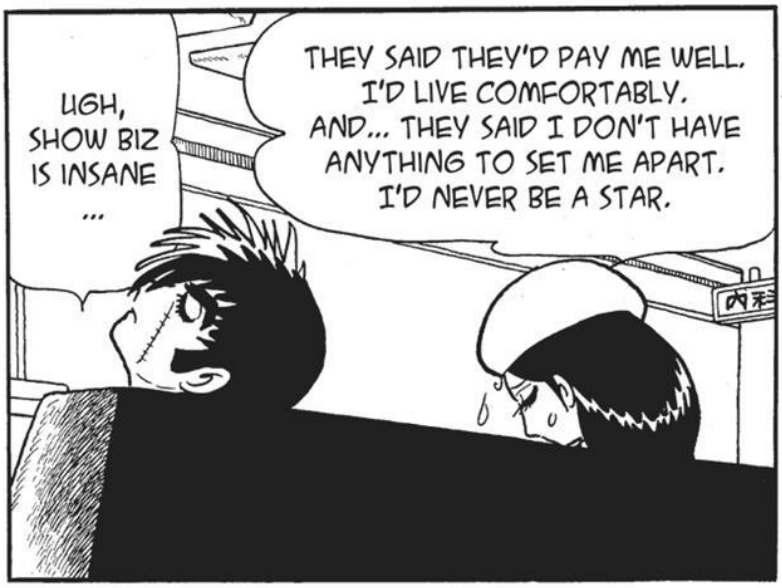

YOU SHOULDN'T GO THROUGH WITH IT. IT'S A BAD IDEA.
THE BOSS SAID TO DO IT...
YOU'LL LOSE YOUR NAME AND FACE AND HAVE TO ACT LIKE SOMEONE ELSE.

DON'T WANT SOMEONE MESSING UP YOUR FACE?

...

THEN WHY LET YOURSELF BE USED AS A PAWN?

LISTEN, HON, I'VE OPERATED ON DOZENS OF ACTRESSES ...

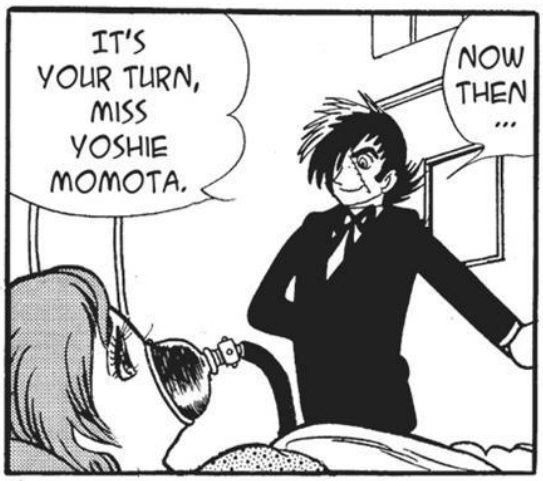

UGH, SHOW BIZ IS INSANE ...
THEY SAID THEY'D PAY ME WELL. I'D LIVE COMFORTABLY. AND... THEY SAID I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO SET ME APART. I'D NEVER BE A STAR.

TAKE MY ADVICE. WASH YOUR HANDS OF SHOWBIZ AND GO HOME.
I DON'T WANT TO GO SLICE UP YOUR PERFECTLY FINE FACE.
BUT I DON'T LIKE MESSING WITH PERFECTLY HEALTHY PEOPLE.

AND MS. BLOWFISH SAID I COULD DO WHAT I WANT WITH YOU!

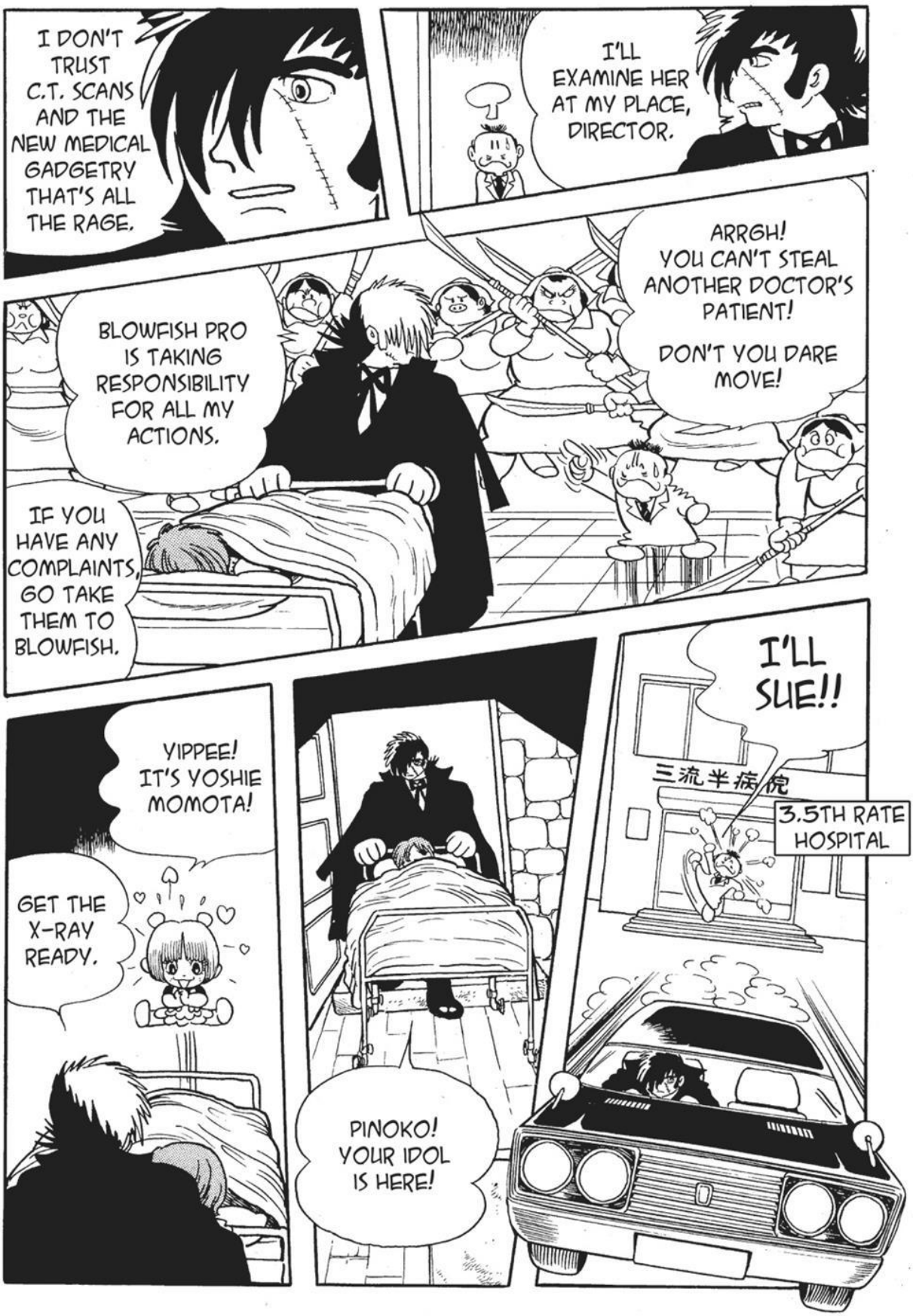
I LOVE TO TOUCH WOMEN I WORK ON...
YOU DON'T KNOW WHEN TO QUIT, DO YOU?

...


IT'S YOUR TURN, MISS YOSHIE MOMOTA.
NOW THEN ...

HEH HEH HEH, FINALLY RAN AWAY.

WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING WITH MY PATIENT?

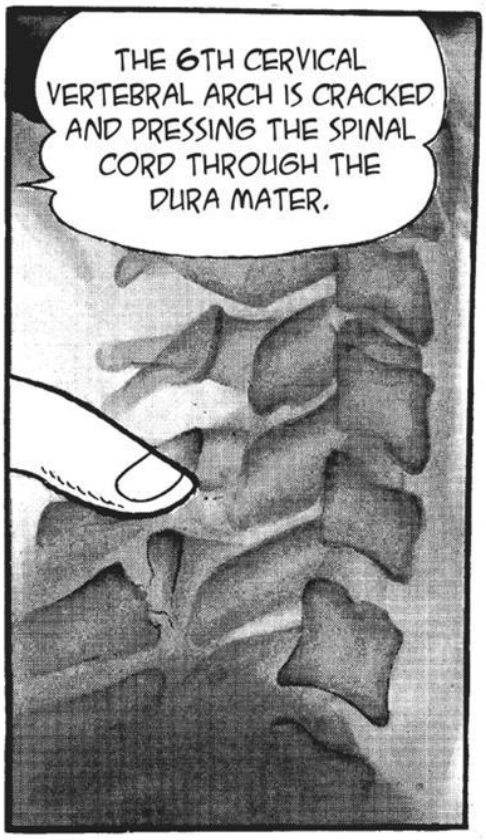

I DON'T TRUST C.T. SCANS AND THE NEW MEDICAL GADGETRY THAT'S ALL THE RAGE.
I'LL EXAMINE HER AT MY PLACE, DIRECTOR.
BLOWFISH PRO IS TAKING RESPONSIBILITY FOR ALL MY ACTIONS.
ARRGH! YOU CAN'T STEAL ANOTHER DOCTOR'S PATIENT!
DON'T YOU DARE MOVE!
IF YOU HAVE ANY COMPLAINTS, GO TAKE THEM TO BLOWFISH.
YIPPEE! IT'S YOSHIE MOMOTA!
GET THE X-RAY READY.
PINOKO! YOUR IDOL IS HERE!
I'LL SUE!!
三流半病院
3.5TH RATE HOSPITAL

I'M GOING TO SEE IF I CAN SAVE HER.
DOCTOR, YOU'RE AMAJING! WHO NEEDS A FAKE YOSHIE, WIGHT?
WOW !!

SHIGN THIS WHEN YOU'RE BETTER?
HEY, YOSHIE?
PRO-MISH ?

IF I DON'T, BLOWFISH PRO WILL HANG ME.

YOU CAN!


THE 6TH CERVICAL VERTEBRAL ARCH IS CRACKED AND PRESSING THE SPINAL CORD THROUGH THE DURA MATER.

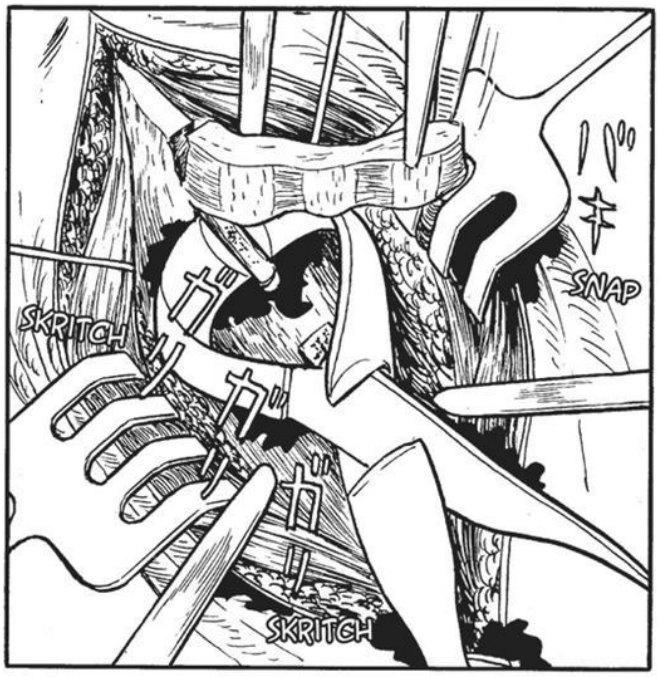
YOU CAN TWUST THE DOC-TOR.
WHY DO YOU LOOK SHO SHAD?

BZZZZ
KLICK

IT'S NO USE. I'M SURE I WON'T RECOVER.
I'LL BE THIS WAY ALL MY LIFE.
THINK WHAT YOU LIKE, AND I'LL OPERATE AS I LIKE.
PINOKO, PREPARE FOR CERVICAL SURGERY!
IF IT'S JUST UNDER PRESSURE SHE'S CURABLE.
BUT I CAN'T SEE IF THE SPINAL CORD ITSELF IS DAMAGED.
SHK
LUER.
SPINAL TONGS!
OPERATING ON THE VERTEBRAL ARCH, AND POSSIBLY THE DURA MATER.
PINOKO, BE CAREFUL. ANY SUDDEN SHAKES AND THIS OP WILL FAIL!

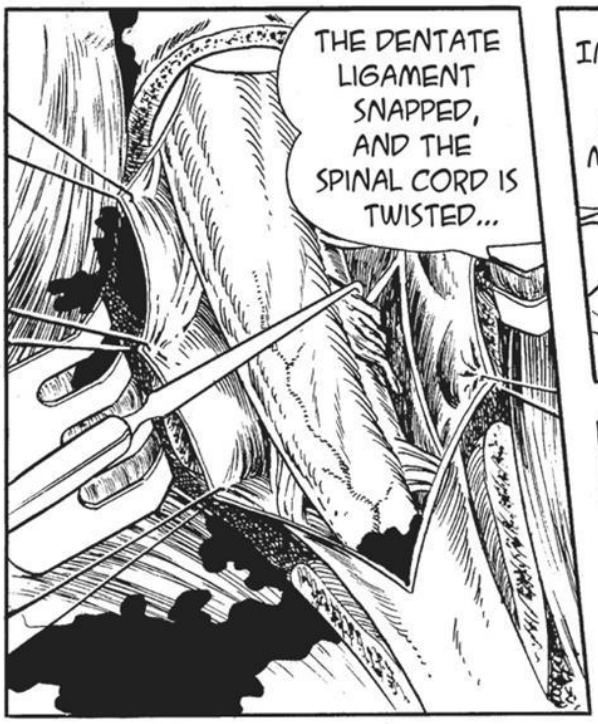
カタン
KLATTER

THE DURA MATER IS DAMAGED ...
UH-OH.


SKRITCH
ガリガリ
SKRITCH
パキ
SNAP

HAVE TO KEEP THE SPINAL FLUID FROM LEAKING.
グラリ
CREAK

PINOKO, LOWER THE HEADREST.

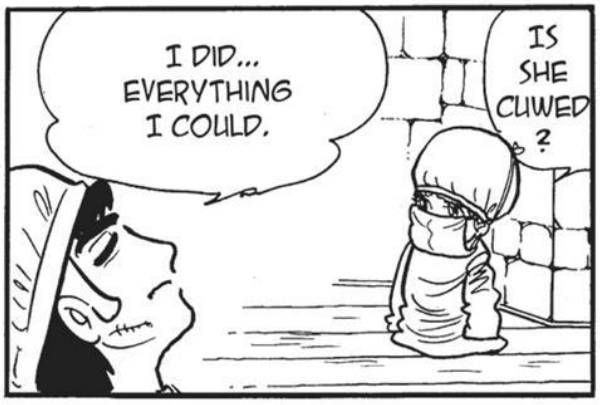

THE DENTATE LIGAMENT SNAPPED, AND THE SPINAL CORD IS TWISTED...

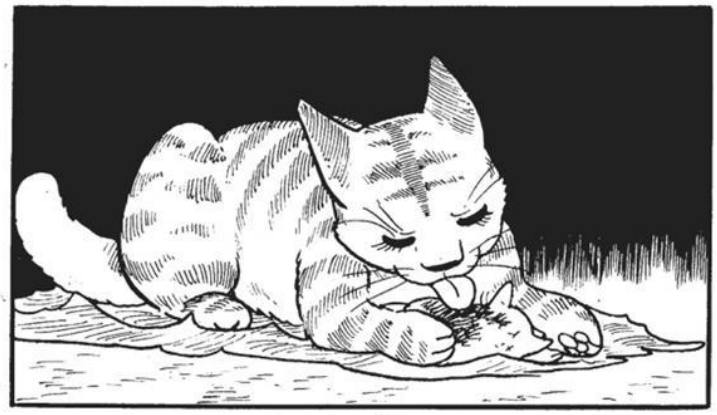
INCISING THE DURA MATER.

NO WONDER IT DIDN'T SHOW UP ON THE X-RAY.
WHAT THE ...

DONE
...

DOCTOR ALWAYS SHNORES AFTER A SHURGEWY THAT WENT WELL.
ZZZ
ZZZ
YAY!


I DID... EVERYTHING I COULD.
IS SHE CUWED ?



I WISH THE DOCTOR COULD OPEWATE ON YOU, TOO.

WHY CAN'T YOU EVEN MOVE YOUR PINKY?
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! I FIXED ALL YOUR INJURIES!
NO, I'M SORRY...
YOU CAN'T MOVE YOUR HANDS YET?
I DON'T CARE ABOUT THEM! WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
THE MAMA CAT KEEPS LICKING IT, NOT EVEN SHTOPPING TO EAT!
HEY, DOCTOR, THE KITTY'S SHTILL ALIVE.
I'M DONE FOR, ANYWAYS.
IDIOT!
IS IT THAT YOU CAN'T MUSTER THE WILL?
DON'T YOU WANT TO RECOVER?

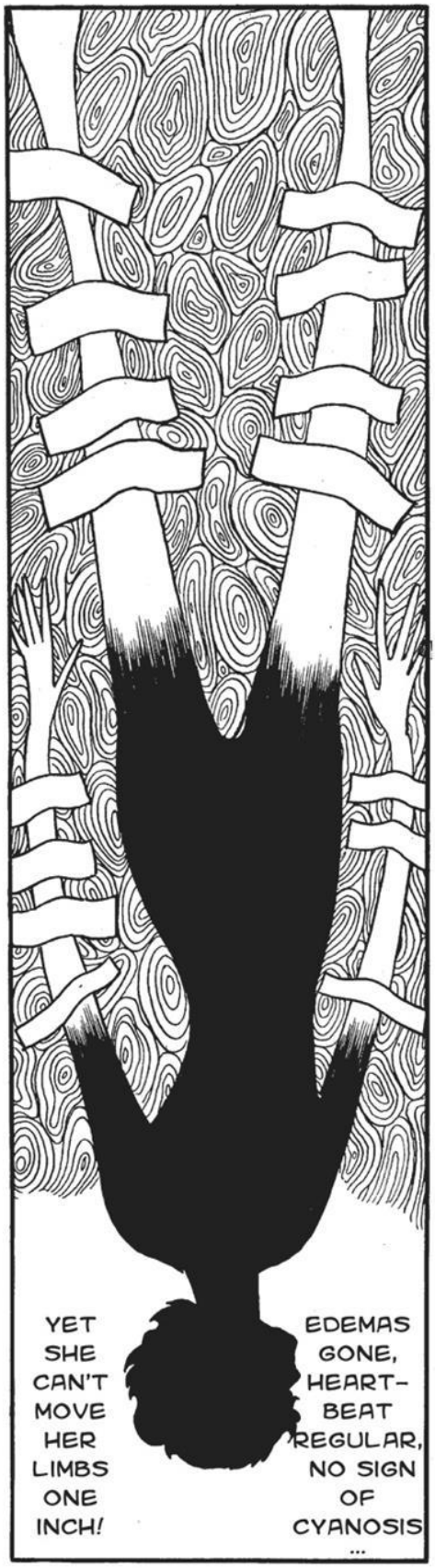
IS THERE SHOMEFING ELSE WONG WITH HER, DOCTOR?

I PERFORMED A CLOSE EXAMINATION. NOTHING ABNORMAL CAME UP.

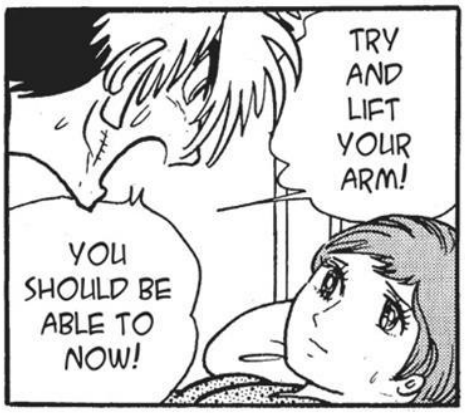
MAYBE PINOKO SHOULD LICK YOSHIE'S ARMS AND LEGS?

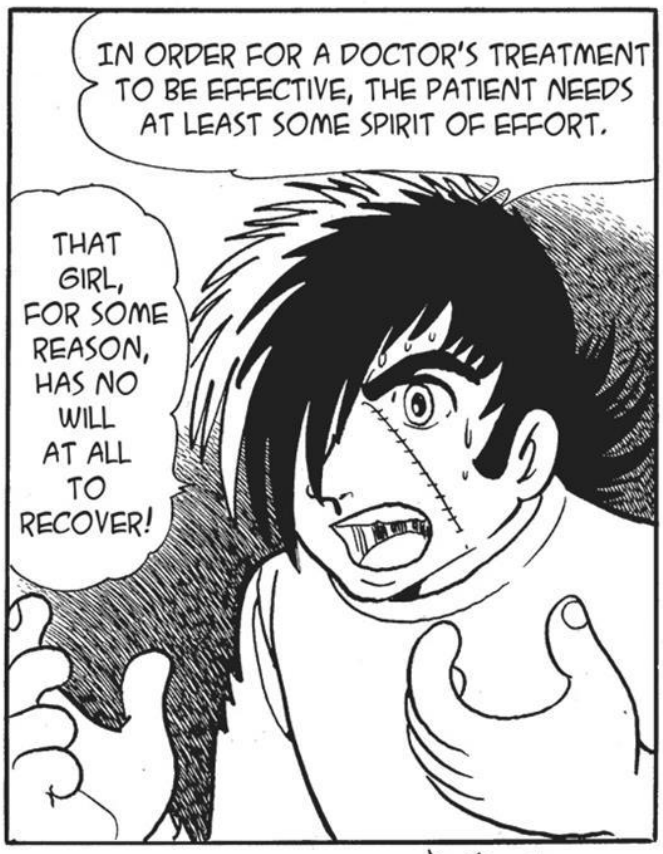
IF LICKING CAN CURE, WHO NEEDS A DOCTOR ?
WHAT ARE YOU, CATS ?!

THERE ARE THINGS EVEN A DOCTOR CAN'T FIX.


YET SHE CAN'T MOVE HER LIMBS ONE INCH!
EDEMAS GONE, HEART-BEAT REGULAR, NO SIGN OF CYANOSIS ...

WHY?
WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM?


TRY AND LIFT YOUR ARM!
YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO NOW!


IN ORDER FOR A DOCTOR'S TREATMENT TO BE EFFECTIVE, THE PATIENT NEEDS AT LEAST SOME SPIRIT OF EFFORT.
THAT GIRL, FOR SOME REASON, HAS NO WILL AT ALL TO RECOVER!

THERE'S NO REASON YOU COULDN'T... THERE WAS NO MISTAKE.

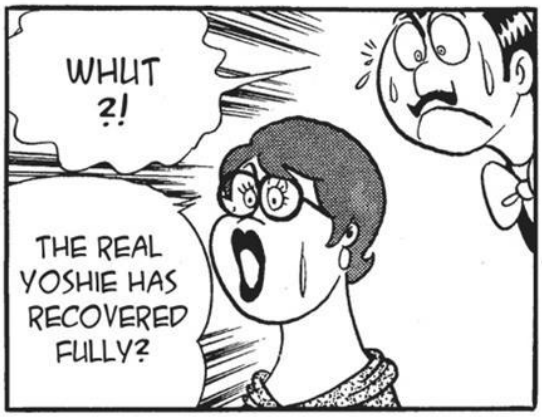
YES... DO IT!

...
DOCTOR, THE BUDOKAN CONCERT IS JUST A WEEK AWAY...

DAMMIT! WHAT COULD IT BE?
WAIT
?
MISS, WANNA SEE SOMETHING FUN?
PREAOW!!

DID YOUR LEGS AND ARMS JUST MOVE?
EEEK!
BUT A MENTAL BLOCK KEPT HER IMMO-BILE.
SHE WAS TOTALLY CURED,
AS GOOD AS NEW, HEH HEH.
WOW!
THEY MOVED ?!
I WON'T! I'LL NEVER FOWGIVE HER FOR HUGGIN' DOCTOR!
PATIENTS WHO DON'T WANT TO GET BETTER SOMETIMES MAKE BELIEVE THAT THEY HAVEN'T. SHE WAS BEING A BABY. OH WELL, LET'S FORGIVE HER.

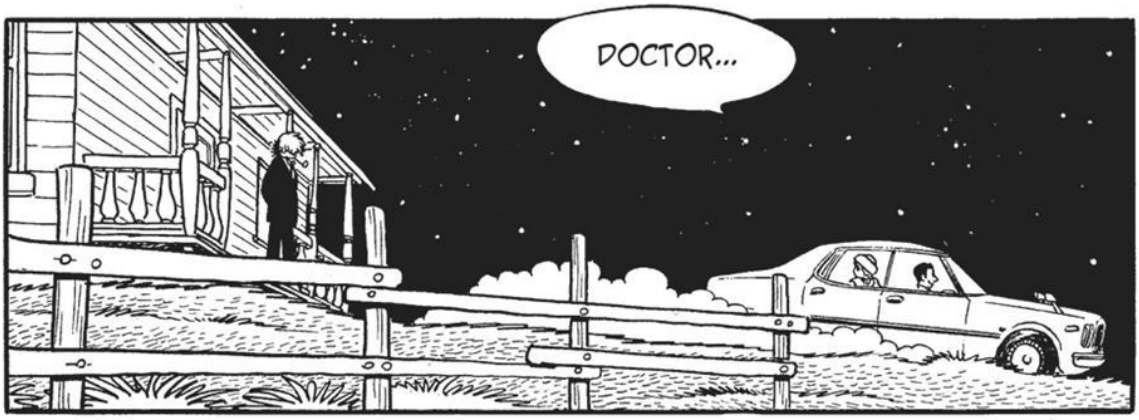
YOU ARE! I'M SO GLAD YOU'RE ALL BETTER!
YOU'RE REALLY THE REAL ONE?

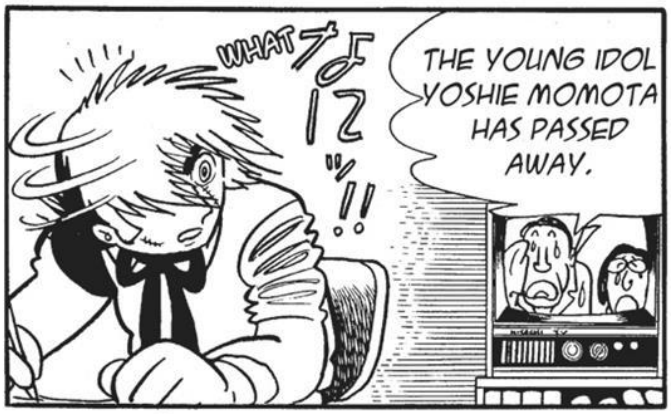

WHUT ?!
THE REAL YOSHIE HAS RECOVERED FULLY?

YOU HAVE A BIG SHOW AHEAD OF YOU!
LET'S GO TO THE OFFICE!

I SHOWER YOU WITH THANKS!
THANKS
THANKS
THANKS
THANKS
THANKS
THANKS

O-OF COURSE NOT!
SO YOU DON'T MIND?
I HAVE NO COMPLAINTS.

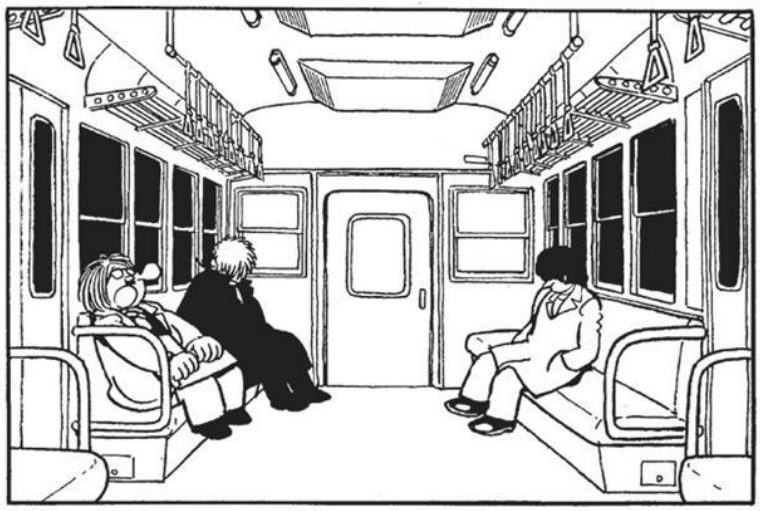

DOCTOR...


WHAT ですって!!
THE YOUNG IDOL YOSHIE MOMOTA HAS PASSED AWAY.

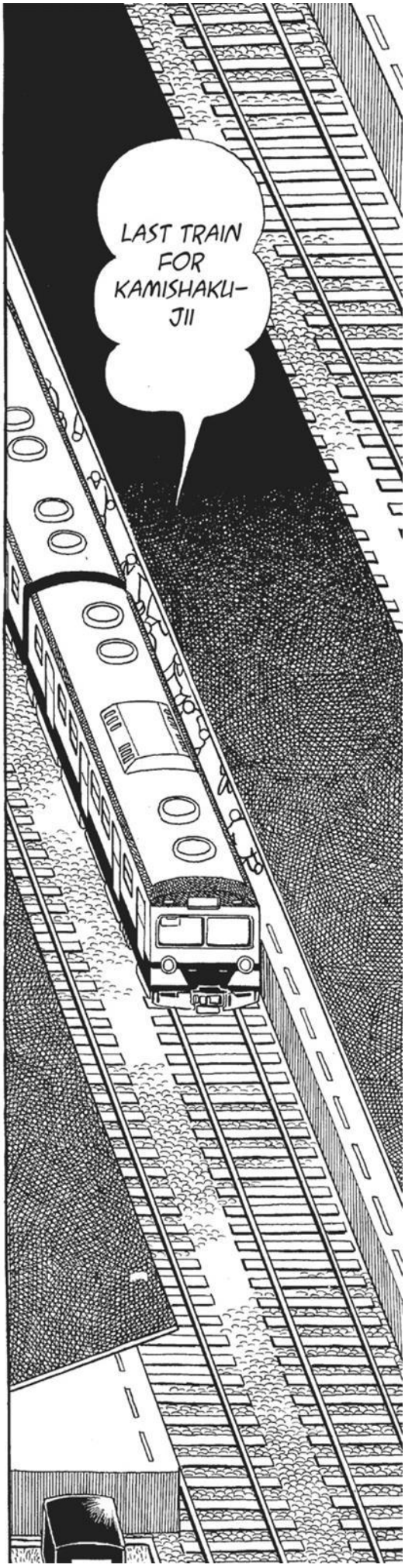
WITH A BUDOKAN CONCERT PLANNED FOR THIS EVENING, SHE RAMMED HER CAR INTO A WALL JUST AFTER NOON TODAY. SHE DIED AT THE SCENE. SHE LEFT A WILL THAT INDICATES THAT SHE WAS TIRED OF LIFE AND WISHED TO DIE.
HER AGENCY, BLOWFISH PRODUCTIONS, BOUND HER TO A STRICT CONTRACT AND FORCED HER TO WORK LONG HOURS EVERY DAY.
YOU FOOL !!
SHE RECOVERED, BUT DIED JUST AS SHE WAS SET TO MAKE A COMEBACK.
3 MONTHS AGO SHE CRASHED HER CAR IN AN ATTEMPT TO TERMINATE HER CONTRACT AND RETIRE.
WHY DID I EVEN BOTHER SAVING YOU?
WHAT A FARCE!
HM?

DOCTOR, LOOK!
DOC-TOR!
THE KITTY'S ALL BETTER! ITS MAMA CUWED IT WITH HER LICKING.
IT'S HEALED?
HEY... THE LITTLE KITTY IS WALKING!
DO AS YOU LIKE!
CAN I GIVE IT A TWEAT?
"SOB"
"SOB"
...DAMN IT!

# THE LAST TRAIN



DR. BLACK JACK! IT'S BEEN A WHILE...


LAST TRAIN FOR KAMISHAKU-JII

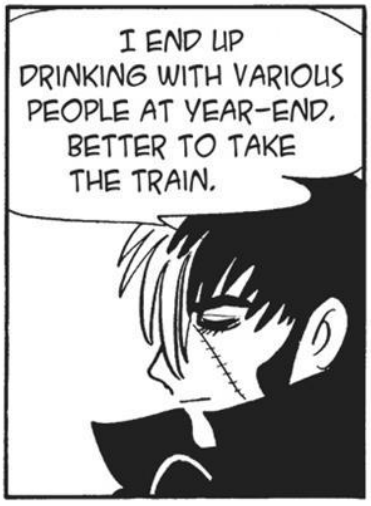
MIND IF I SIT NEXT TO YOU ?

NO ...

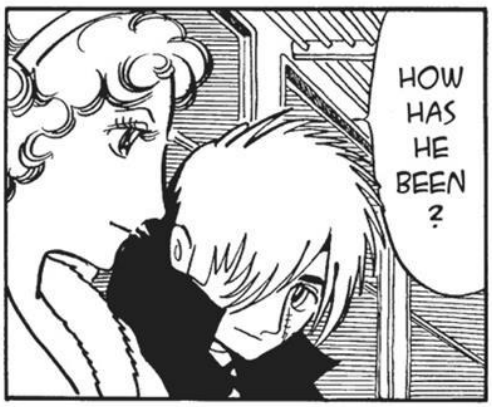
YOU'RE... KONOMI ... KUWATA, RIGHT ?
I'M NOW KONOMI SUZUKI. IT REALLY HAS BEEN A WHILE!

...
HOW STRANGE THAT WE SHOULD BE TAKING THE LAST TRAIN TOGETHER.

THE LAST TIME WE MET WAS THE CHRISTMAS BEFORE LAST.
THE DAY I WITNESSED YOUR MIRACLE!

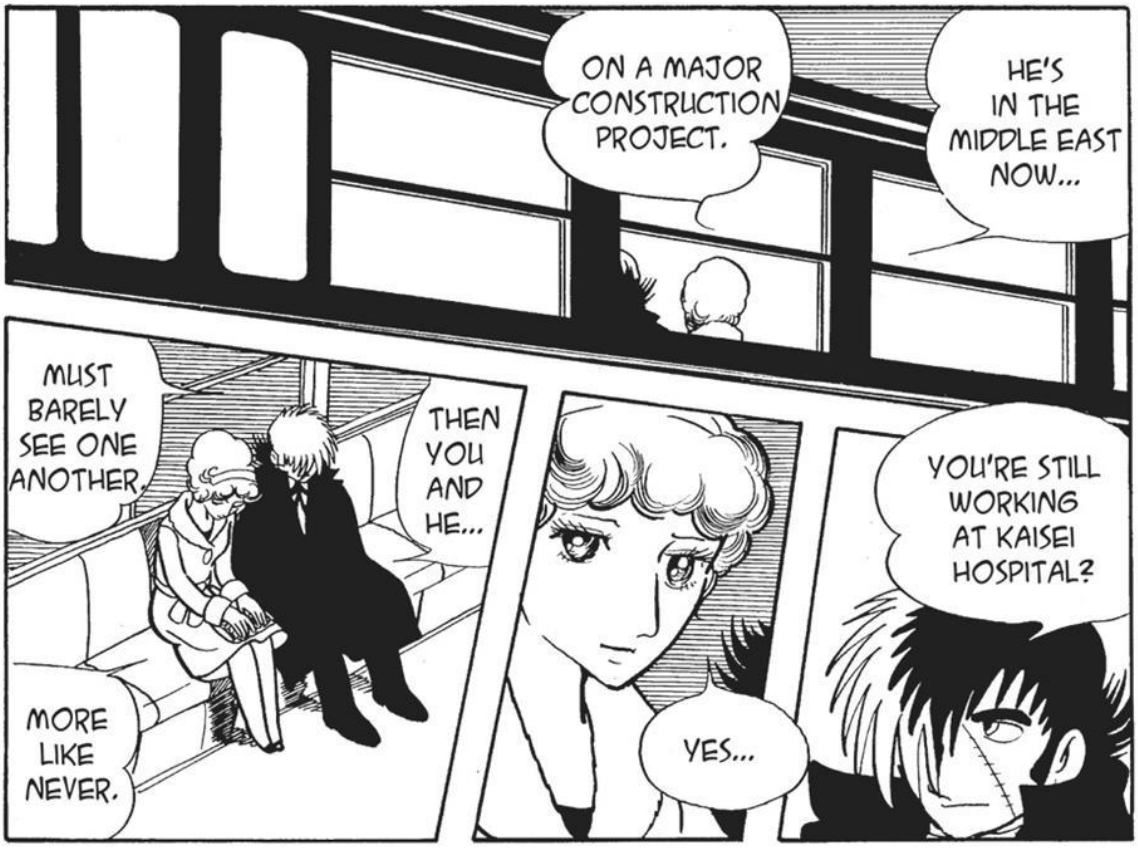

I END UP DRINKING WITH VARIOUS PEOPLE AT YEAR-END. BETTER TO TAKE THE TRAIN.

DON'T YOU ALWAYS DRIVE?


HOW HAS HE BEEN ?

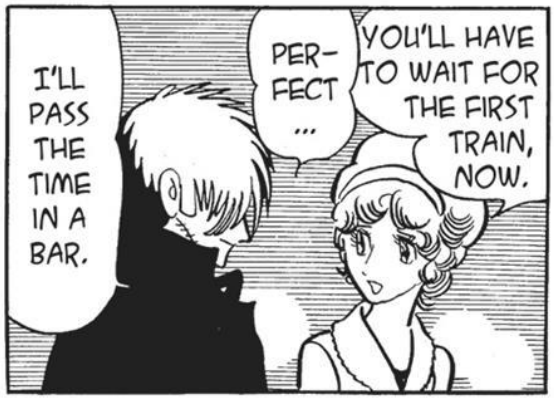
BUT YOU MADE DO WITH SU-TURES AND PLASTY, SAVING HIS LEG !
I THOUGHT I HAD TO AMPUTATE ROCK'S LEG, WHICH WAS CRUSHED BY A CRANE.

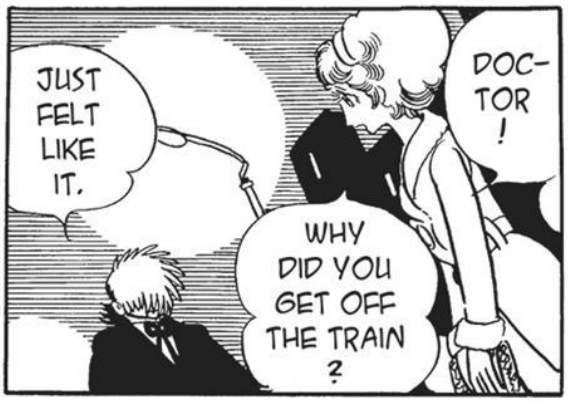
HE CAN WALK NORMALLY, THANKS TO YOU.
WE GOT MARRIED HALF A YEAR LATER.


ON A MAJOR CONSTRUCTION PROJECT.
HE'S IN THE MIDDLE EAST NOW...
MUST BARELY SEE ONE ANOTHER.
MORE LIKE NEVER.
THEN YOU AND HE...
YES...
YOU'RE STILL WORKING AT KAISEI HOSPITAL?

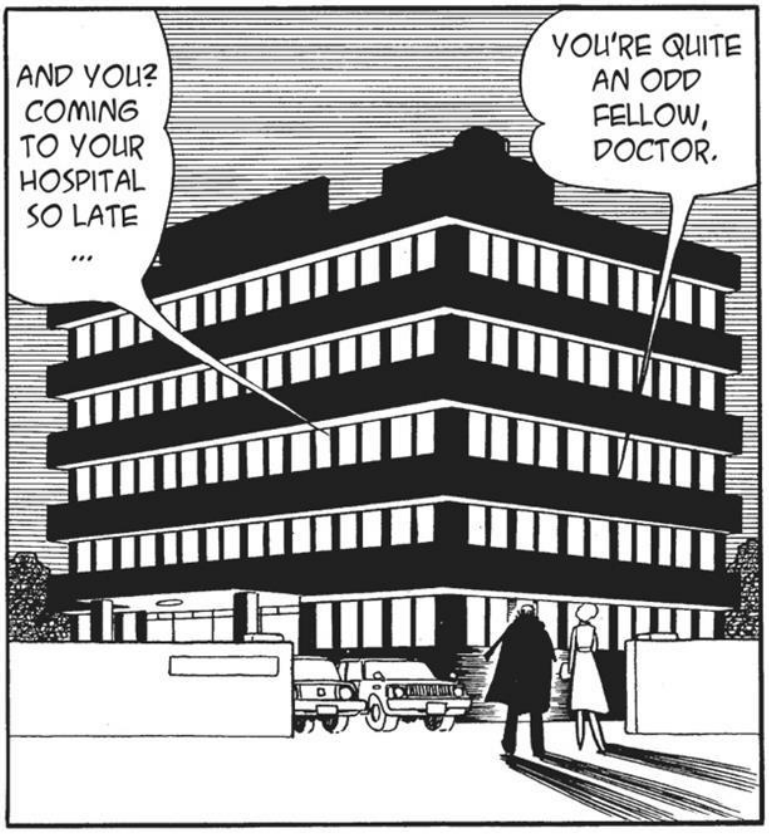
...
WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME?
OVER A YEAR AGO.
YES.
YOU'D HAVE TO QUIT YOUR JOB.
MORE THAN ONCE,
ACTUALLY
HE ASKED ME TO JOIN HIM OVER THERE.
I'D BE NOTH-ING.
IF I DIDN'T HAVE MY JOB AT THE HOSPITAL
BUT YOU DIDN'T WANT TO.
MAYBE, BUT I DON'T KNOW IF THEY'LL HAVE THE EQUIPMENT KAISEI HAS...
THERE MUST BE HOSPITALS OVER THERE THAT WOULD HIRE YOU.
YOU SAID IT.
YOU'D RATHER NOT GIVE UP YOUR PERCH.
I JUST CAN'T FIND THE WILL.

WHAT ?!
I MIGHT LEAVE MY HUSBAND.
I ...
THIS IS THE LAST TRAIN FOR TONIGHT!
TRACK 5, LAST TRAIN FOR KAMISHAKU-JII
'TIL WE MEET AGAIN ...
THIS IS MY STOP.
OH ...
SHIMO-OCHIAI
下落合


I'LL PASS THE TIME IN A BAR.
PER-FECT ...
YOU'LL HAVE TO WAIT FOR THE FIRST TRAIN, NOW.


JUST FELT LIKE IT.
DOC-TOR !
WHY DID YOU GET OFF THE TRAIN ?

IT'S A TOUGH ONE, AND I WANT TO DO SOME RESEARCH FIRST.
I HAVE AN EARLY OPE-RATION.

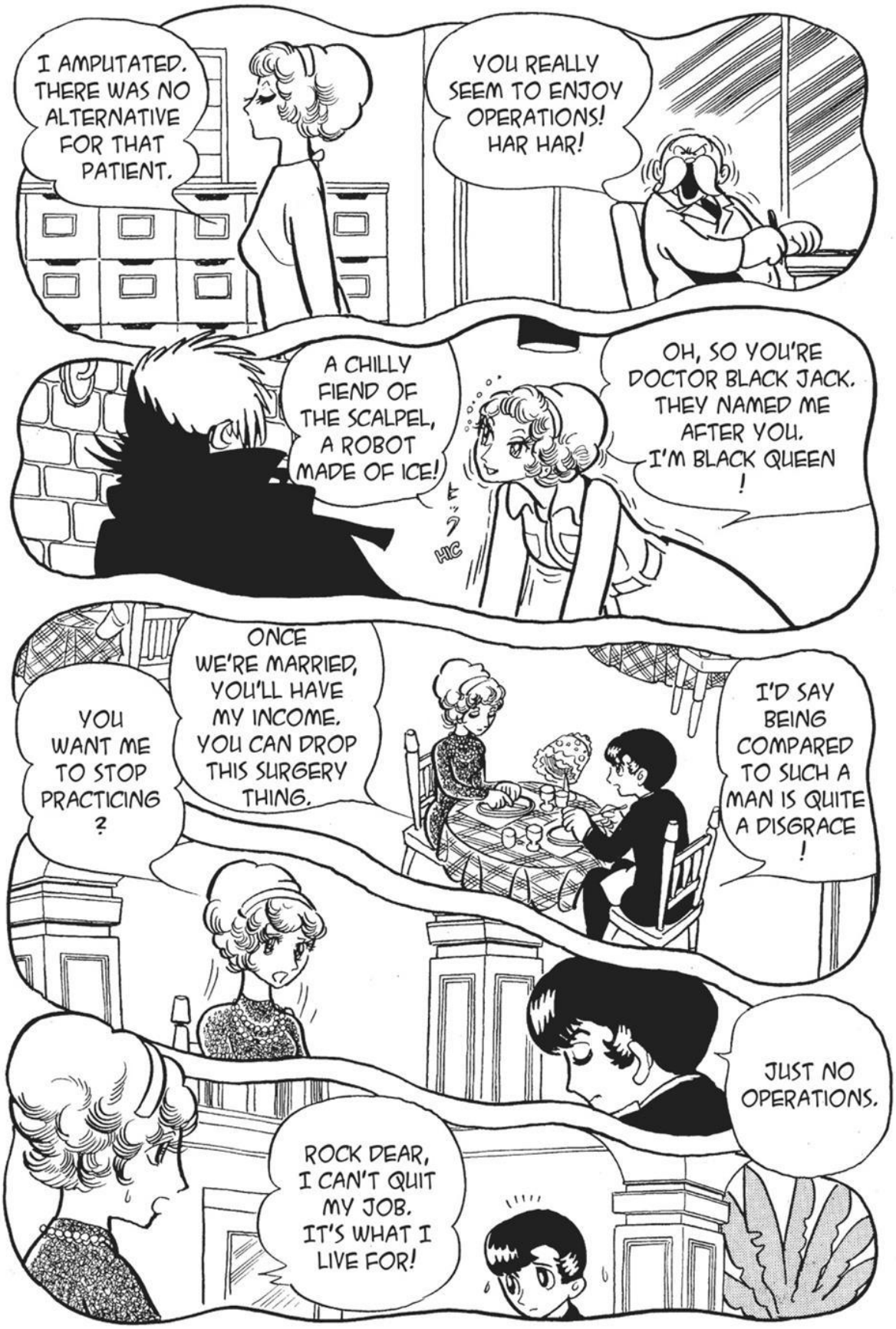

AND YOU? COMING TO YOUR HOSPITAL SO LATE ...
YOU'RE QUITE AN ODD FELLOW, DOCTOR.

VERY KIND OF YOU.

WHY DON'T YOU WAIT FOR THE FIRST TRAIN IN MY OFFICE?
I CAN EVEN FIX YOU A DRINK.

JUST LIKE TWO YEARS AGO.
STILL SO DEVOTED, EH?

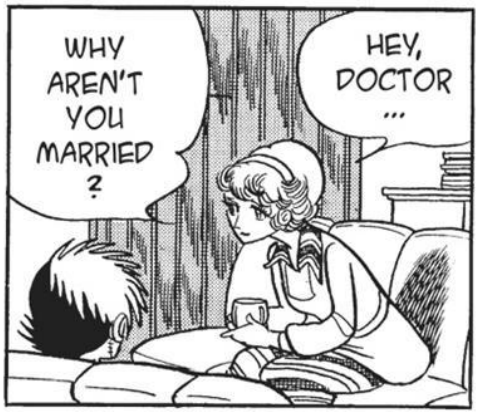
A TOUGH CASE. CAN YOU HANDLE IT, DOCTOR BLACK QUEEN ?
PLEASE, DON'T CALL ME THAT.
YES. TRICUSPID ATRESIA.
THIS OPERATION WILL BE FOR A CARDIAC ANOMALY?
カラン
POP
A WOMAN DOCTOR WHO CALMLY, COOLLY, AND ABLY CUT, SEVERED, AND REMOVED, SHE WAS CALLED "BLACK QUEEN" BY HER COLLEAGUES.
ピチャ
SPLAT
グリッ
SNAP
ポキ
POP


I AMPUTATED. THERE WAS NO ALTERNATIVE FOR THAT PATIENT.
YOU REALLY SEEM TO ENJOY OPERATIONS! HAR HAR!
A CHILLY FIEND OF THE SCALPEL, A ROBOT MADE OF ICE!
HIC
OH, SO YOU'RE DOCTOR BLACK JACK. THEY NAMED ME AFTER YOU. I'M BLACK QUEEN !
YOU WANT ME TO STOP PRACTICING ?
ONCE WE'RE MARRIED, YOU'LL HAVE MY INCOME. YOU CAN DROP THIS SURGERY THING.
I'D SAY BEING COMPARED TO SUCH A MAN IS QUITE A DISGRACE !
JUST NO OPERATIONS.
ROCK DEAR, I CAN'T QUIT MY JOB. IT'S WHAT I LIVE FOR!

BUT SOON LIVED SEPARATE LIVES.

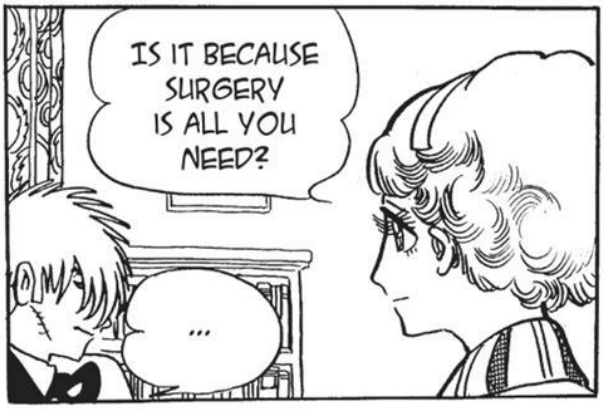
THEN WE GOT MARRIED ...

I'VE NEVER GIVEN THOUGHT TO.
THAT,


WHY AREN'T YOU MARRIED ?
HEY, DOCTOR ...

I'M IN THE O.R., HE'S AWAY ON BUSINESS.

UNDER-STAND ME.
I FEEL THAT YOU WOULD ...


IS IT BECAUSE SURGERY IS ALL YOU NEED?
...

BUT LOVE DOESN'T ALWAYS BRING HAPPINESS...

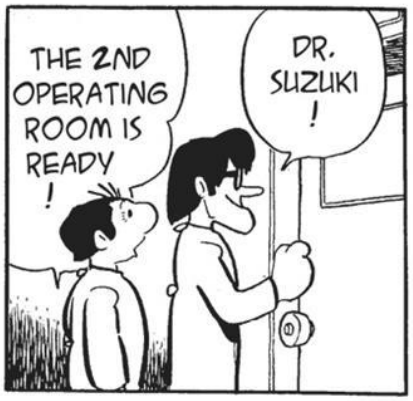
I GUESS I LOVED HIM.
WELL ... HA HA

SO THEN WHY DID YOU MARRY HIM?

YOU'RE SAYING MARRIAGE WAS A MISTAKE.
I LIVE FOR MY WORK. FOR THE OPERATION ROOM !
PER-HAPS I AM.
YOU SAID YOU LIVE FOR YOUR WORK?
GIVE ME A BREAK! YOU'RE JUST SPOILED!
TRUE, YOUR JOB HERE IS A CUSHY ONE ...
A DOCTOR'S WORK— IT ISN'T LIKE AN ARTIST FINDING SATISFACTION IN SIMPLY PAINTING.

IF IT WERE WITH YOU, I'D GO!!
WITH YOU, DOCTOR, I'M SURE I COULD.
IF YOU REALLY LIVE FOR YOUR WORK, MAYBE YOU CAN LEAD SUCH A LIFE.
AND YET A MIDDLE-EASTERN HOSPITAL IS NO GOOD?
WHY IS THAT ?
YOU'D FIND A REASON TO LIVE, OUT THERE TOO.
BUT I KNEW A DOCTOR WHO DID OPERATIONS AMID MALARIA-RIDDEN MOSQUITOES, IN STIFLING HUMIDITY, WITH JUST A CHEAP FAN FOR COMFORT.

...
THERE WAS A TIME WHEN YOUR BEING WAS SEARED INTO MY HEART.
BUT THAT TIME HAS PASSED.
DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT I'M SAYING?
LET'S FORGET THIS WHOLE CONVERSATION. CHEERS...
I SLIPPED YOU A SLEEPING PILL.
LAST TIME WE MET
WAS... THAT... IT...?
THEN I OPERATED FOR YOU.

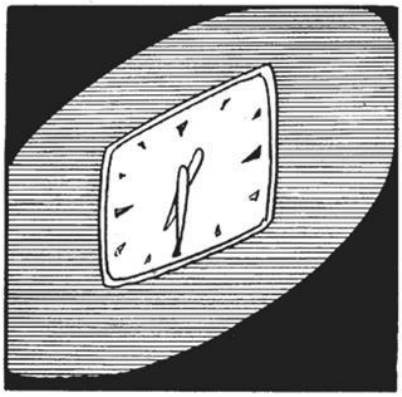

THE 2ND OPERATING ROOM IS READY !
DR. SUZUKI !

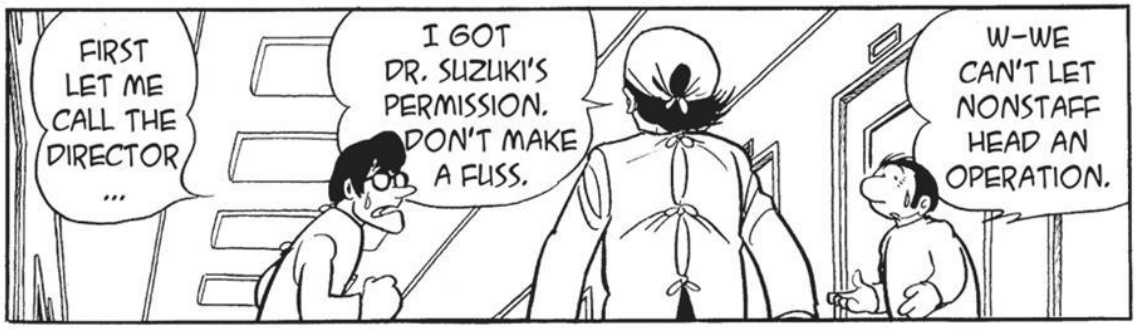
DR. SUZUKI IS HAVING HER BEAUTY SLEEP. SHE ASKED ME TO OPERATE IN HER STEAD.

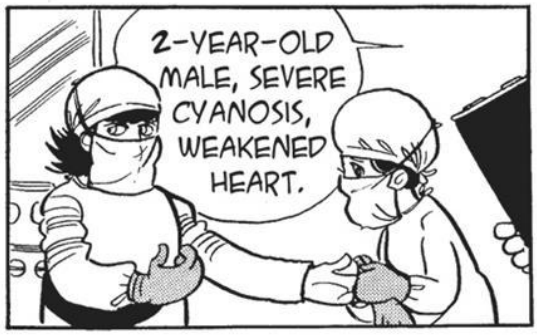
WHO ARE YOU?
WH... WHAT ?!

BLACK JACK. YES, I'M THE INFAMOUS UNLICENSED SURGEON.

ZZZ... ZZZ...




FIRST LET ME CALL THE DIRECTOR ...
I GOT DR. SUZUKI'S PERMISSION. DON'T MAKE A FUSS.
W-WE CAN'T LET NONSTAFF HEAD AN OPERATION.

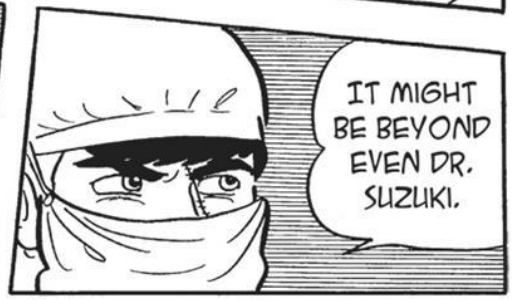

2-YEAR-OLD MALE, SEVERE CYANOSIS, WEAKENED HEART.

I'M SUBBING FOR DR. SUZUKI. PREPARE HEART-LUNG MACHINE.

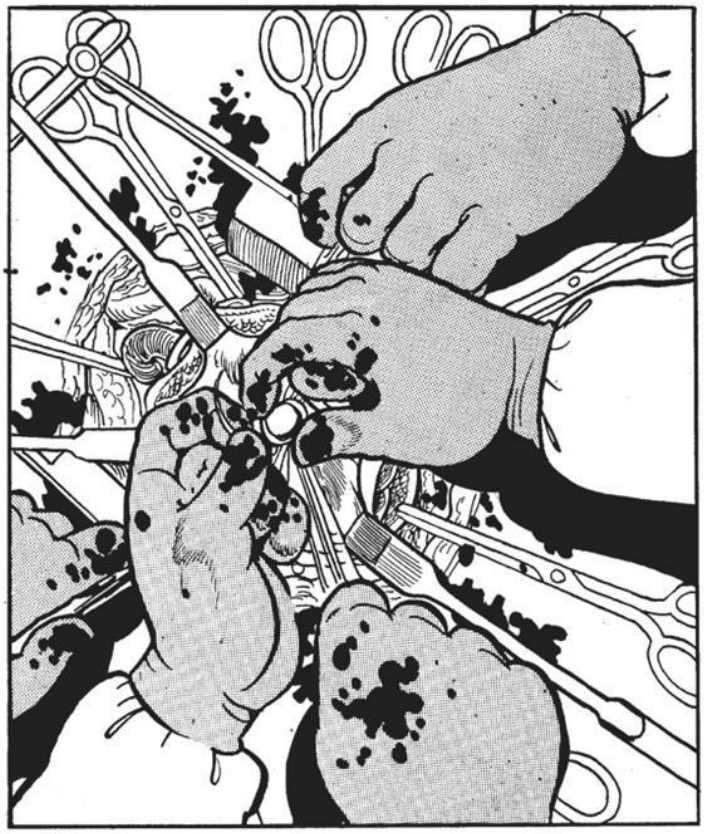
I'M SURE HE'S STILL ASLEEP, ANYWAY.
NO NEED. LET'S BEGIN.

THIS PROCEDURE OFTEN FAILS TO RESTORE CARDIAC FUNCTION FULLY AND IS CONSIDERED PROBLEMATIC.
OPENING CHEST TO OPERATE ON TRICUSPID VALVE AND ATRIAL SEPTUM.

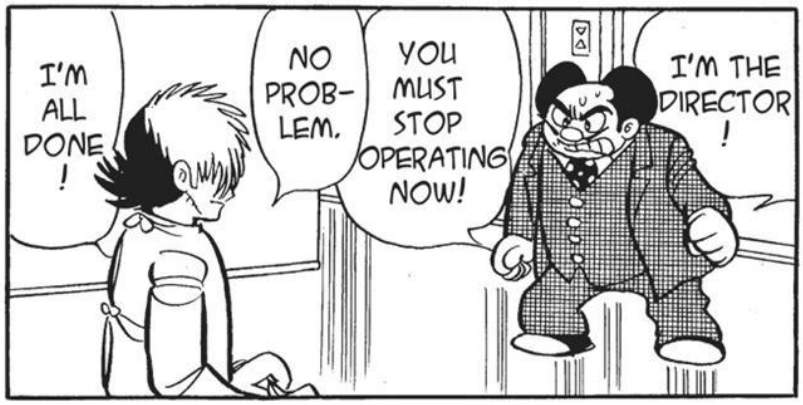
BUT I HAVE PULLED IT OFF ONCE BEFORE.
...


IT MIGHT BE BEYOND EVEN DR. SUZUKI.

RIB SPREAD-ER.
SHK
PLEASE OPEN THE CHEST.
HE'S OPERATING ON DR. SUZUKI'S BEHALF? RUBBISH!
STOP HIM !
HUH? BLACK JACK JUST WALTZED IN AND STARTED OPERATING?
WE'VE EXPOSED THE HEART ...
MOVE. NOW IT'S MY TURN.
SCAL-PEL.
START THE HEART-LUNG MACHINE!
VALVE!
THERE'S THE TRICUSPID. ALMOST TOTALLY CLOSED.



WOW...
THE RUMORS ABOUT BLACK JACK ARE TRUE.
PACEMAKER ELECTRODE...
CLOSE CHEST.

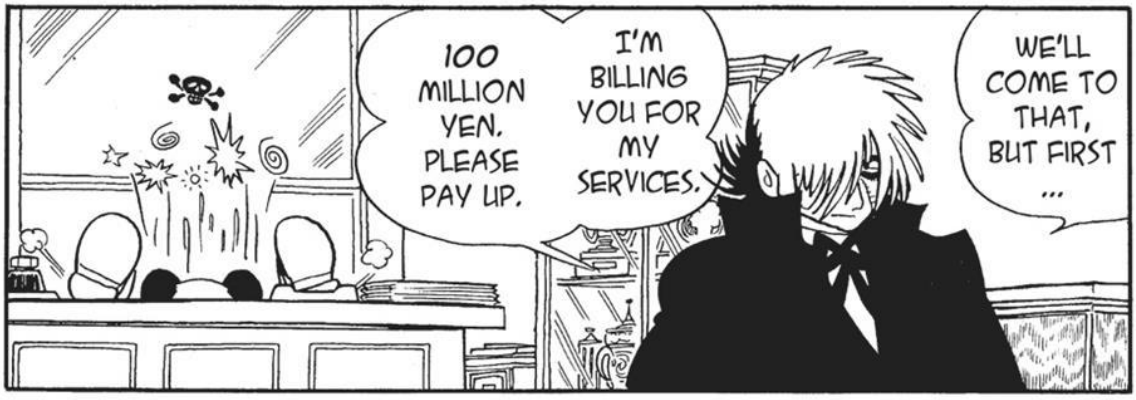

I'M ALL DONE!
NO PROB-LEM.
YOU MUST STOP OPERATING NOW!
I'M THE DIRECTOR!

WE NEVER ASKED YOU TO DO IT!
THAT WAS A TOUGH ONE. TRICUSPID ATRESIA IS QUITE RARE.
I MUST SAY...

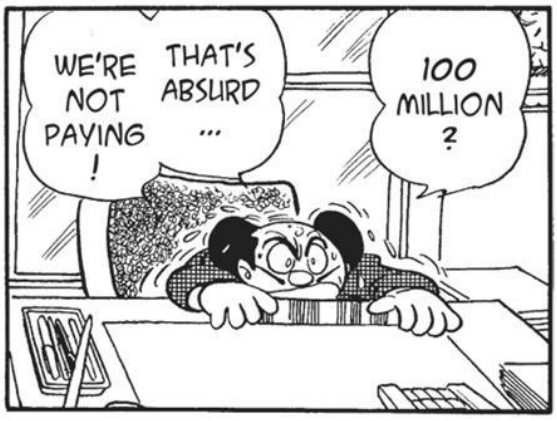
WHAT'S THE PROBLEM? THE OPERATION WAS A SUCCESS.

LETTING NONSTAFF, AN UNLICENSED SURGEON TO BOOT, OPERATE— THAT'S THE PROBLEM!

WHO ALLOWED YOU TO OPERATE, HUH?
I HAD A FEW DRINKS WITH DOCTOR KONOMI SUZUKI. SHE GAVE PERMISSION.


100 MILLION YEN. PLEASE PAY UP.
I'M BILLING YOU FOR MY SERVICES.
WE'LL COME TO THAT, BUT FIRST ...

URGG...
I'M CALLING THE COPS!
A BIG HOSPITAL LIKE YOURS EASILY CAN. I INSIST.

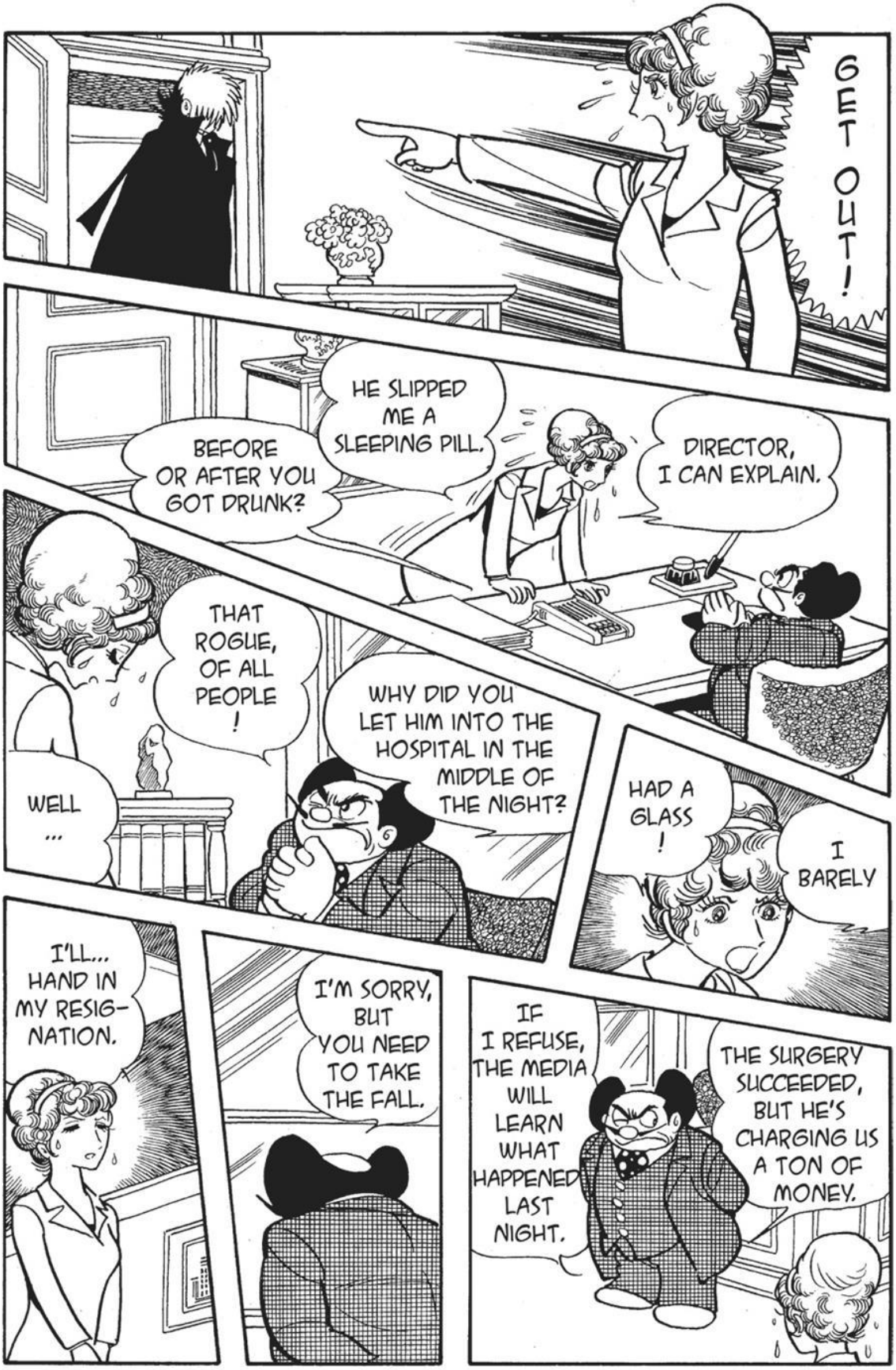

WE'RE NOT PAYING!
THAT'S ABSURD ...
100 MILLION?

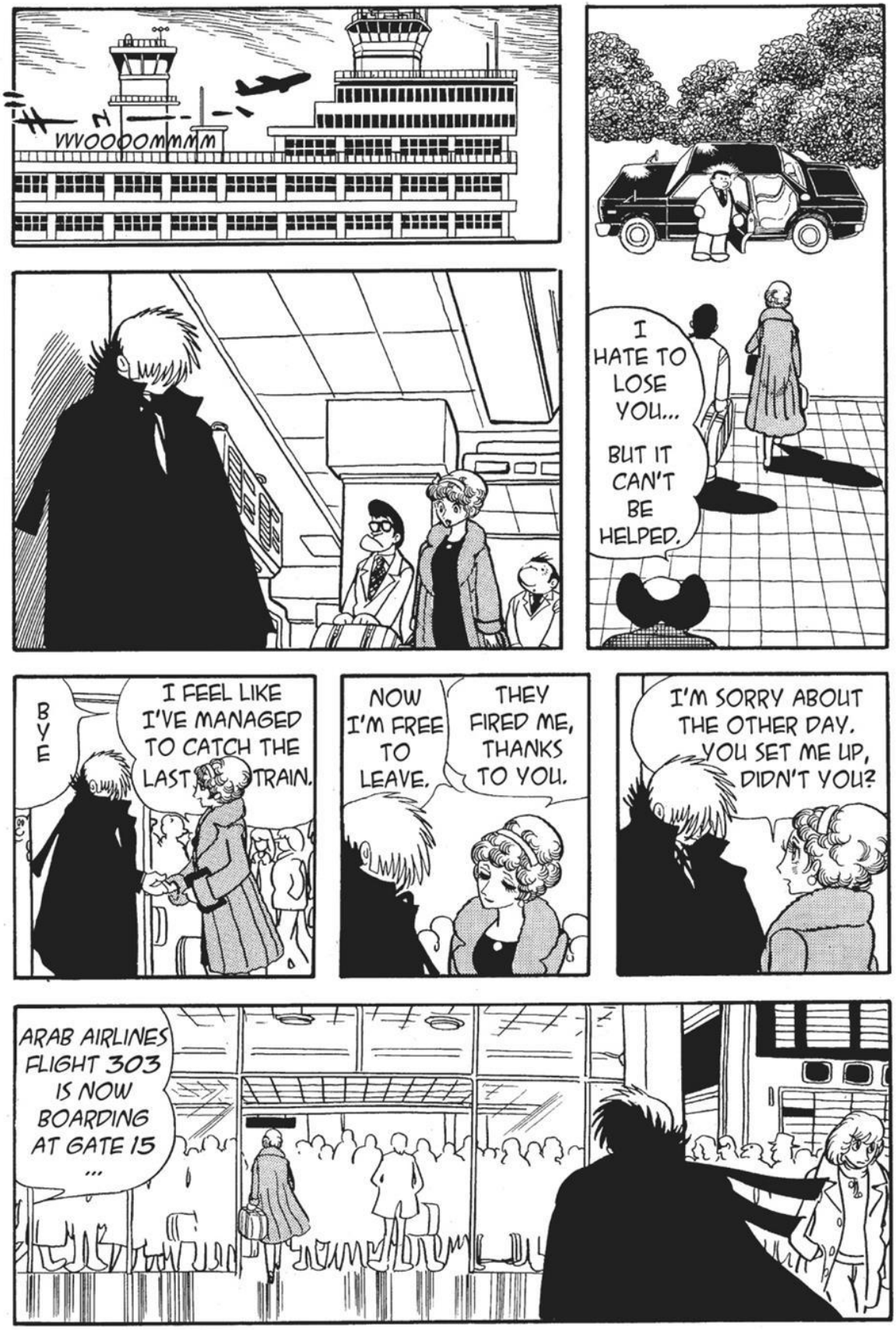
I'D TELL THEM DR. SUZUKI PASSED OUT DRUNK LAST NIGHT.
DON'T GET THEM INVOLVED.
AH, WAIT JUST A SEC.

SHE GOT WASTED RIGHT BEFORE AN OPERATION ?
WHAT WOULD YOUR PATIENTS THINK IF THEY FOUND OUT

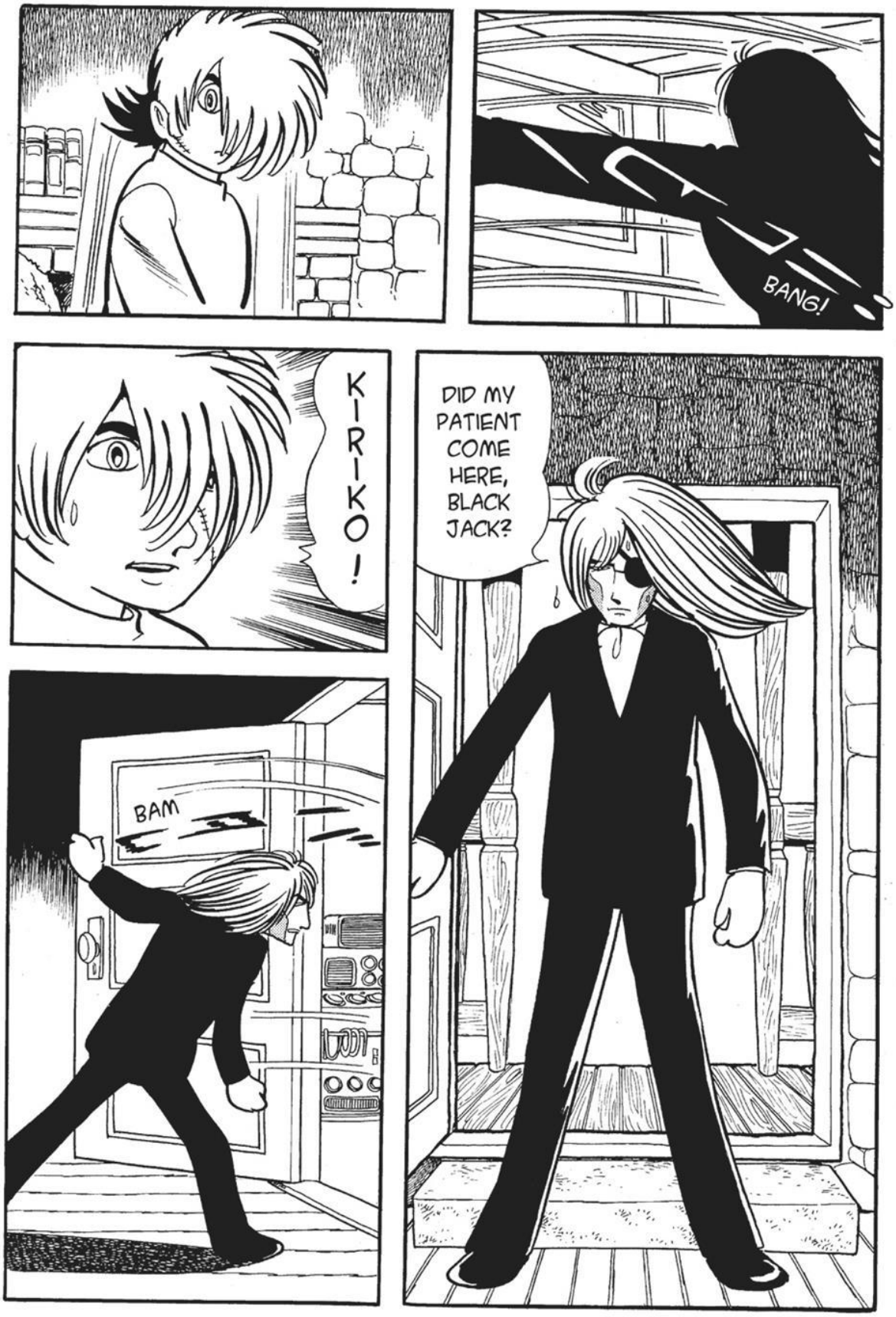
IS THAT A THREAT ?

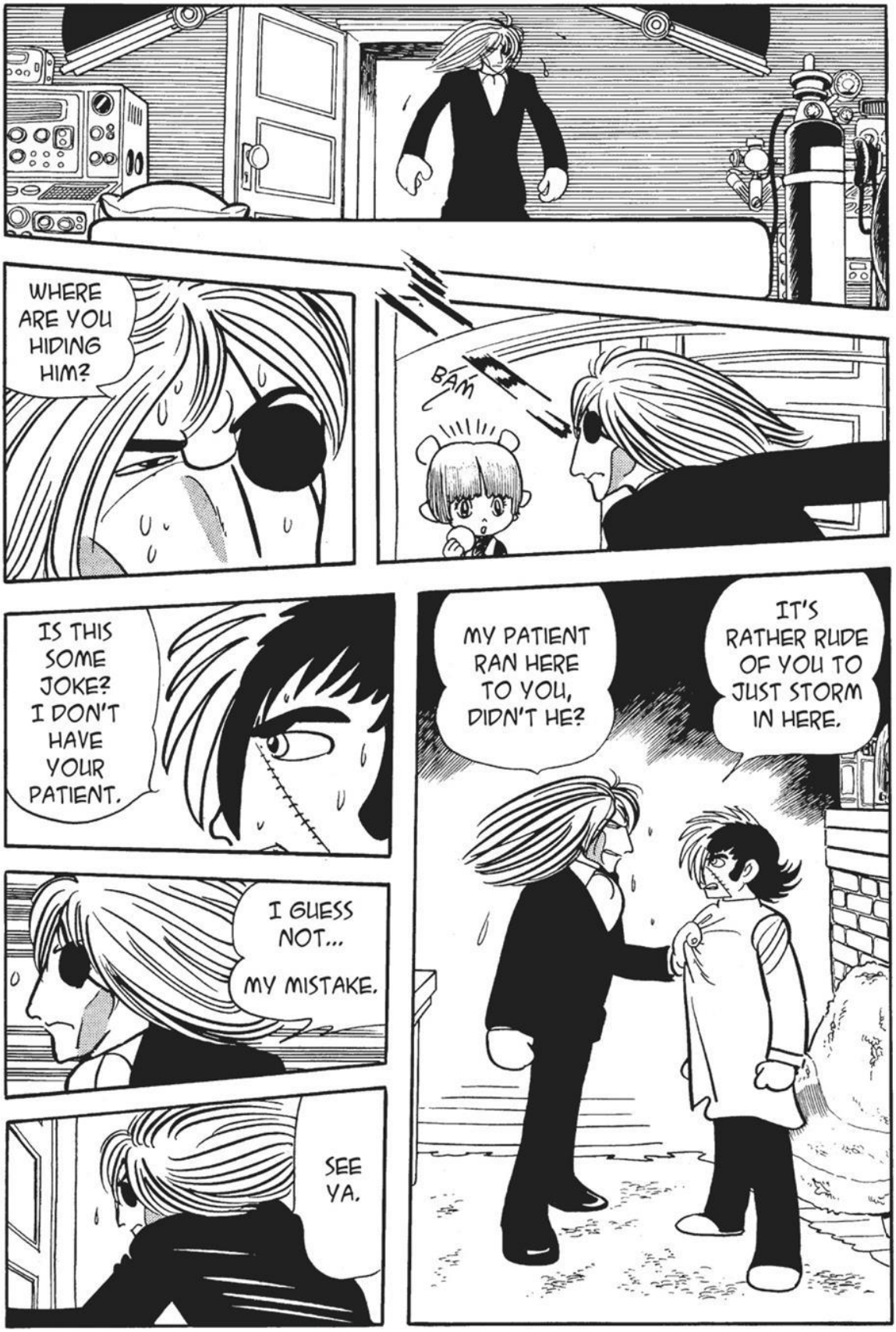
SLAP
ピシャッ!!

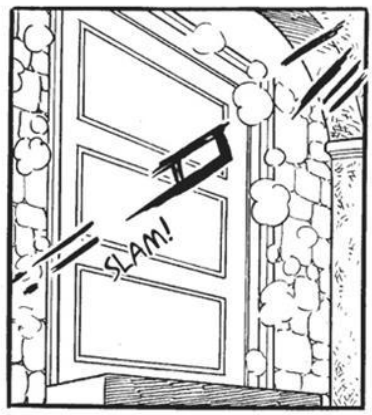

GET OUT!
DIRECTOR, I CAN EXPLAIN.
HE SLIPPED ME A SLEEPING PILL.
BEFORE OR AFTER YOU GOT DRUNK?
I BARELY
HAD A GLASS!
WHY DID YOU LET HIM INTO THE HOSPITAL IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT?
THAT ROGUE, OF ALL PEOPLE!
WELL...
THE SURGERY SUCCEEDED, BUT HE'S CHARGING US A TON OF MONEY.
IF I REFUSE, THE MEDIA WILL LEARN WHAT HAPPENED LAST NIGHT.
I'M SORRY, BUT YOU NEED TO TAKE THE FALL.
I'LL... HAND IN MY RESIG-NATION.


WWOOOOMMMM
I HATE TO LOSE YOU... BUT IT CAN'T BE HELPED.
BYE
I FEEL LIKE I'VE MANAGED TO CATCH THE LAST TRAIN.
NOW I'M FREE TO LEAVE.
THEY FIRED ME, THANKS TO YOU.
I'M SORRY ABOUT THE OTHER DAY. YOU SET ME UP, DIDN'T YOU?
ARAB AIRLINES FLIGHT 303 IS NOW BOARDING AT GATE 15 ...

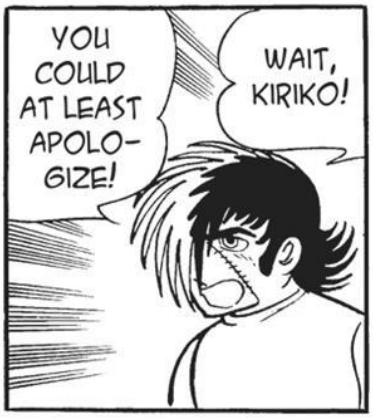
THERE WAS A VALVE!


BANG!
KIRIKO!
DID MY PATIENT COME HERE, BLACK JACK?
BAM


WHERE ARE YOU HIDING HIM?
BAM
IS THIS SOME JOKE? I DON'T HAVE YOUR PATIENT.
MY PATIENT RAN HERE TO YOU, DIDN'T HE?
IT'S RATHER RUDE OF YOU TO JUST STORM IN HERE.
I GUESS NOT...
MY MISTAKE.
SEE YA.


SLAM!

GLARE


YOU COULD AT LEAST APOLO-GIZE!
WAIT, KIRIKO!

YES.
IS HE THE ONE I CALLED A FAILED ASHASHIN?
HE'S SHO SCAWY!

RIIIING!

HE'S PROBABLY TRYING TO KILL SOME POOR PATIENT.

YOU'RE ON THE WAY?
WAIT, WHAT'S GOING ON?
WHAT? SURGERY?
WHERE ARE YOU NOW?

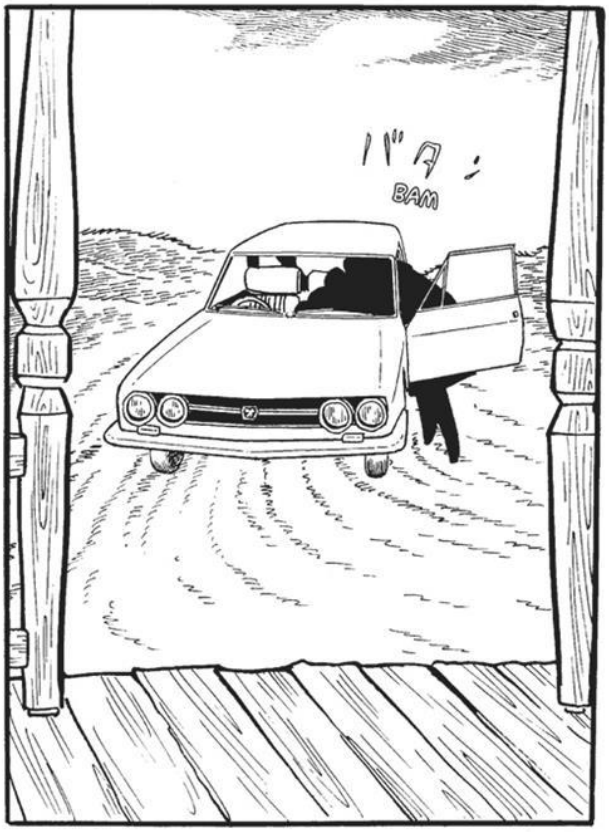
THE DOCTOR'S NAME ISN'T "KIRIKO," IS IT?

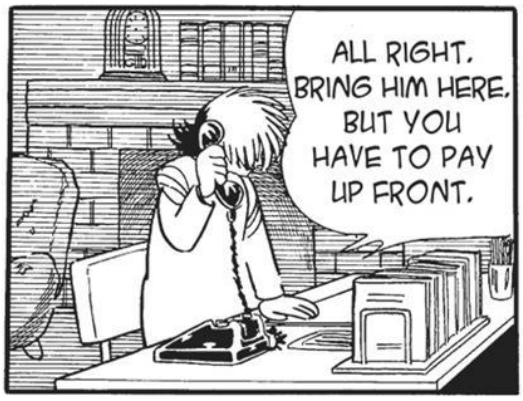
WHO'S TRYING TO KILL MY AILING FATHER.
TO TELL THE TRUTH, THERE'S A DOCTOR

SAY THEY CAN'T CURE HIM.
ALL THE HOSPITALS

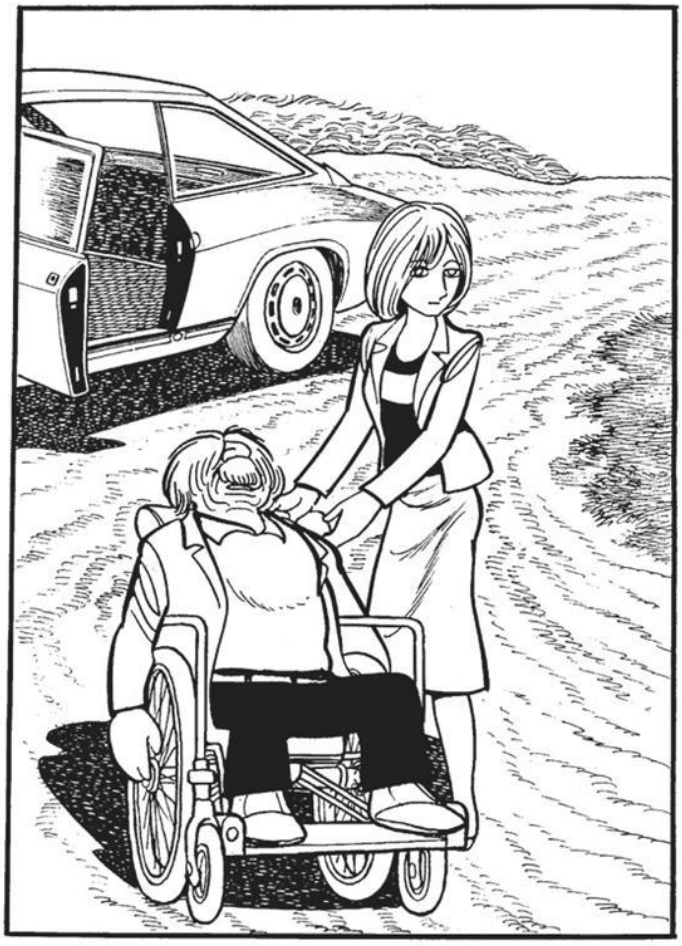
YOU SHOULD GO TO A HOSPITAL.
KIRIKO WAS HERE JUST A MOMENT AGO.

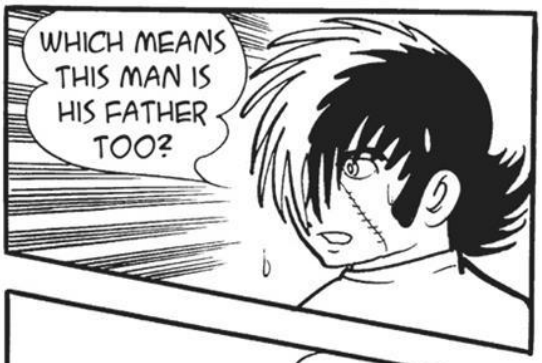
HE TRIED TO SAVE DAD AT FIRST,
BUT NOW HE'S JUST TRYING TO KILL.
IT IS ...


BAM

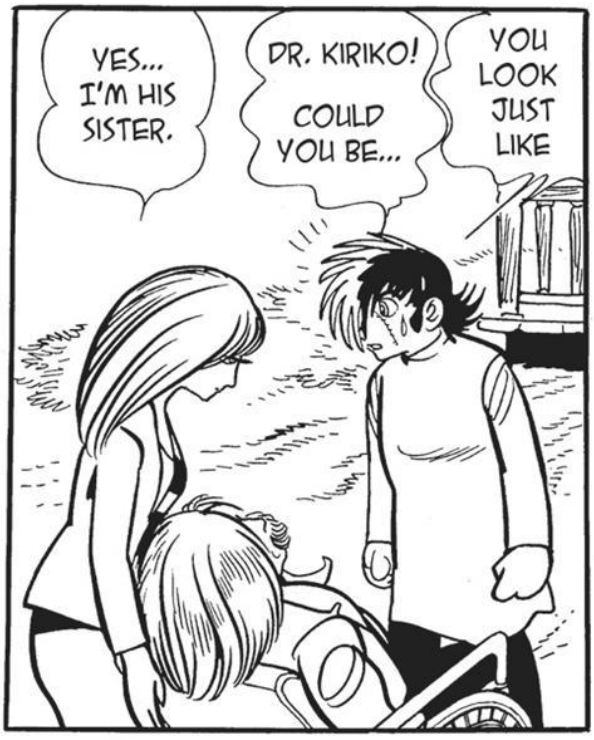

ALL RIGHT. BRING HIM HERE. BUT YOU HAVE TO PAY UP FRONT.

...




WHICH MEANS THIS MAN IS HIS FATHER TOO?

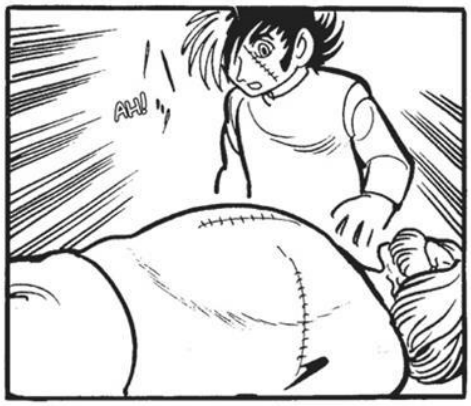
URRHH...
UNNGHH...

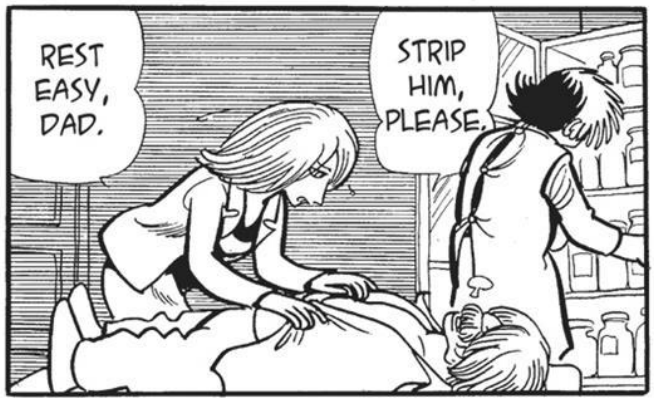

YES... I'M HIS SISTER.
DR. KIRIKO! COULD YOU BE...
YOU LOOK JUST LIKE

LET'S GET HIM ONTO A BED.

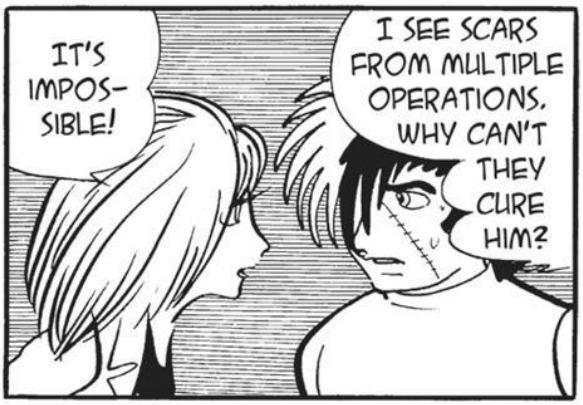
DON'T TRY TO SPEAK, DAD.

"COUGH"
"COUGH"

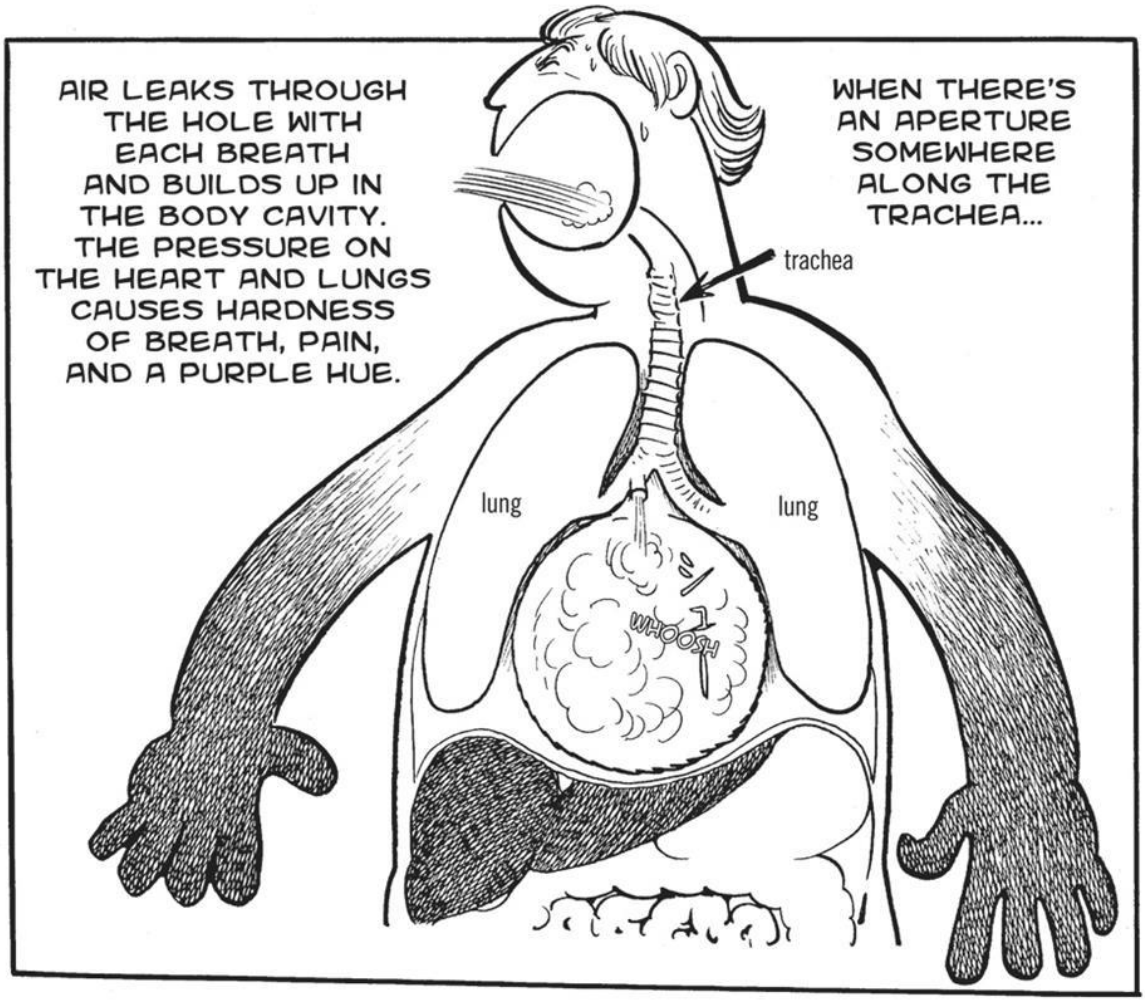

AH!

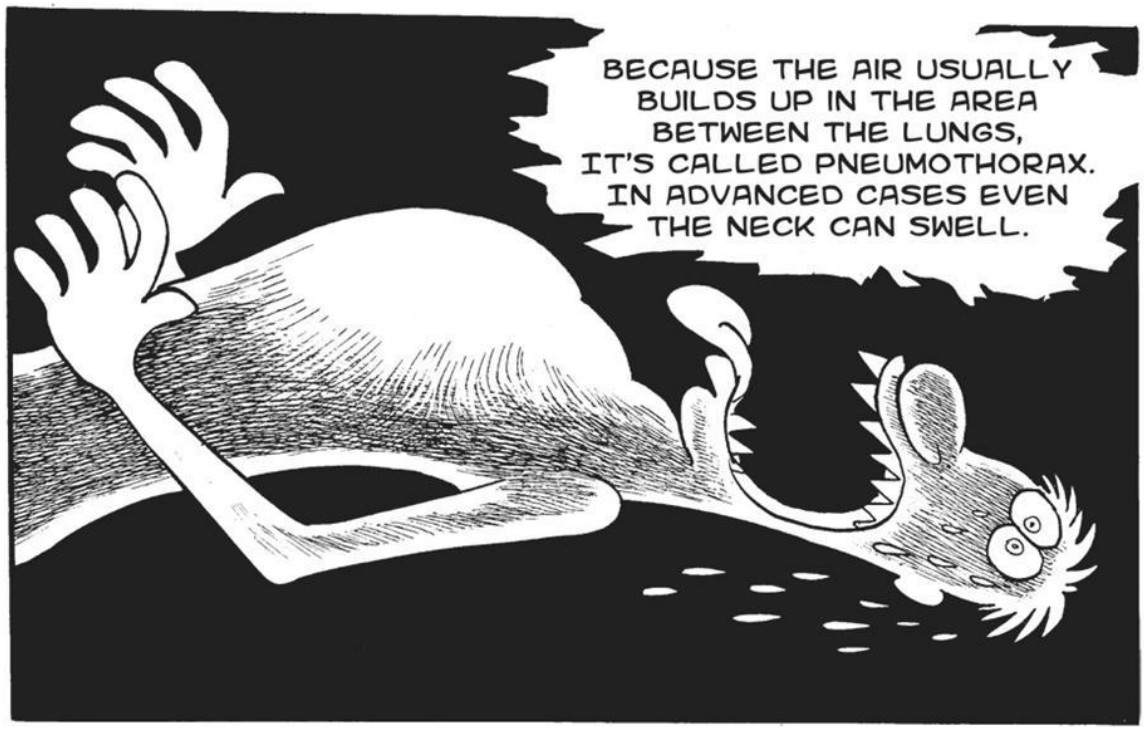

REST EASY, DAD.
STRIP HIM, PLEASE.

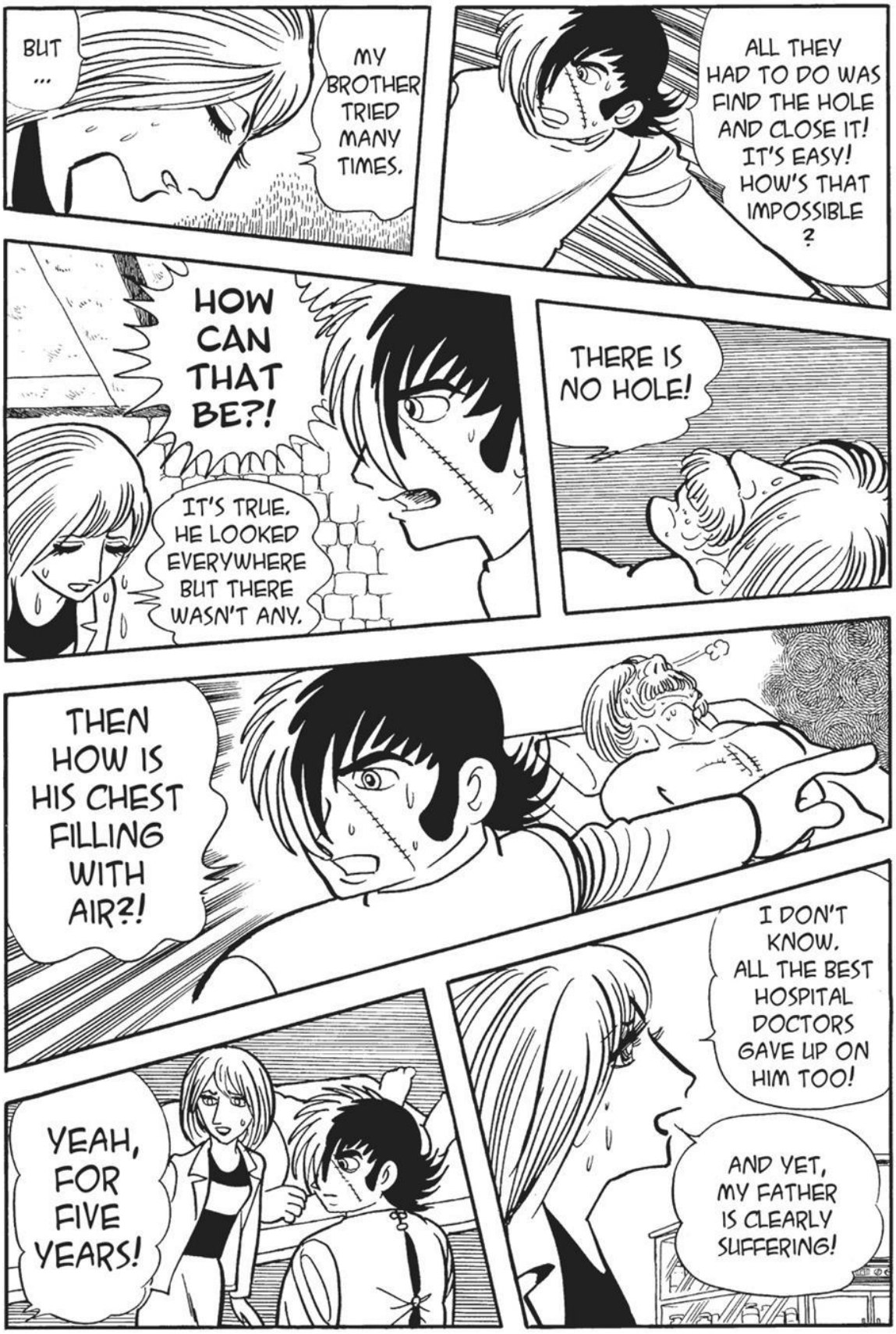
PNEUMO-THORAX!
YES.


IT'S IMPOS-SIBLE!
I SEE SCARS FROM MULTIPLE OPERATIONS. WHY CAN'T THEY CURE HIM?

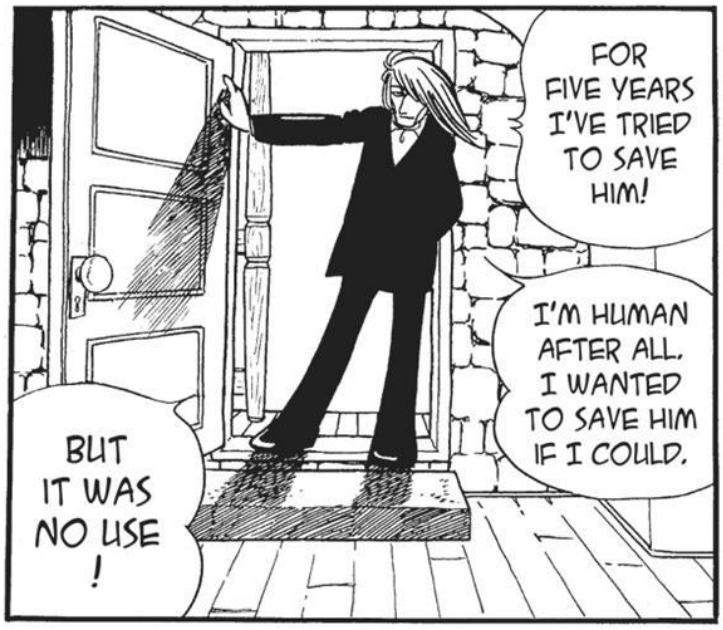
THIS IS A BAD CASE. HIS CHEST IS SWELLING WITH EACH BREATH...

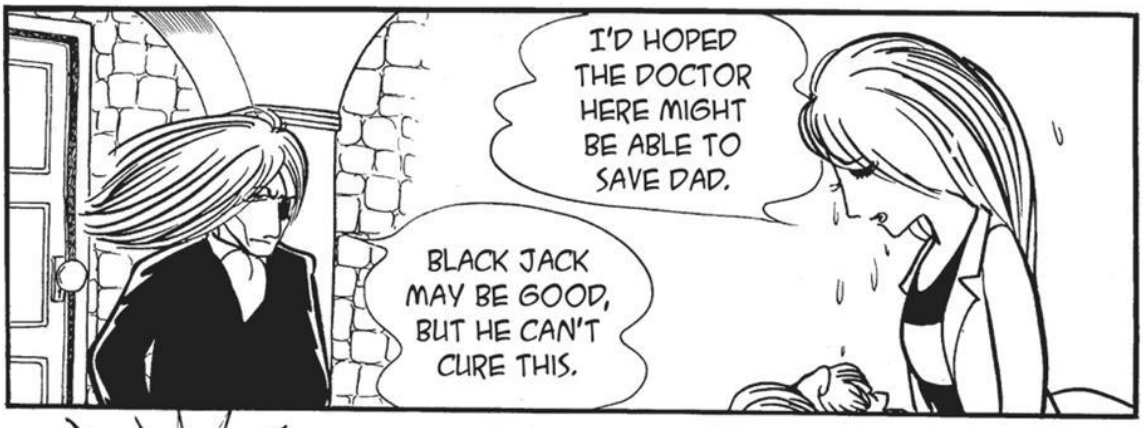

AIR LEAKS THROUGH THE HOLE WITH EACH BREATH AND BUILDS UP IN THE BODY CAVITY. THE PRESSURE ON THE HEART AND LUNGS CAUSES HARDNESS OF BREATH, PAIN, AND A PURPLE HUE.
WHEN THERE'S AN APERTURE SOMEWHERE ALONG THE TRACHEA...
trachea
lung
lung
WHOOSH


BECAUSE THE AIR USUALLY BUILDS UP IN THE AREA BETWEEN THE LUNGS, IT'S CALLED PNEUMOTHORAX. IN ADVANCED CASES EVEN THE NECK CAN SWELL.


BUT ...
MY BROTHER TRIED MANY TIMES.
ALL THEY HAD TO DO WAS FIND THE HOLE AND CLOSE IT! IT'S EASY! HOW'S THAT IMPOSSIBLE ?
HOW CAN THAT BE?!
IT'S TRUE. HE LOOKED EVERYWHERE BUT THERE WASN'T ANY.
THERE IS NO HOLE!
THEN HOW IS HIS CHEST FILLING WITH AIR?!
YEAH, FOR FIVE YEARS!
I DON'T KNOW. ALL THE BEST HOSPITAL DOCTORS GAVE UP ON HIM TOO!
AND YET, MY FATHER IS CLEARLY SUFFERING!

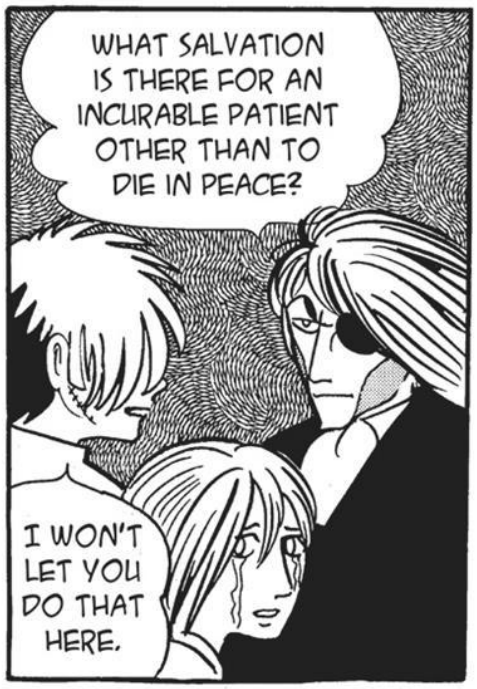
BROTHER!
I THOUGHT YOU'D COME HERE, YURI.


FOR FIVE YEARS I'VE TRIED TO SAVE HIM!
I'M HUMAN AFTER ALL. I WANTED TO SAVE HIM IF I COULD.
BUT IT WAS NO USE !

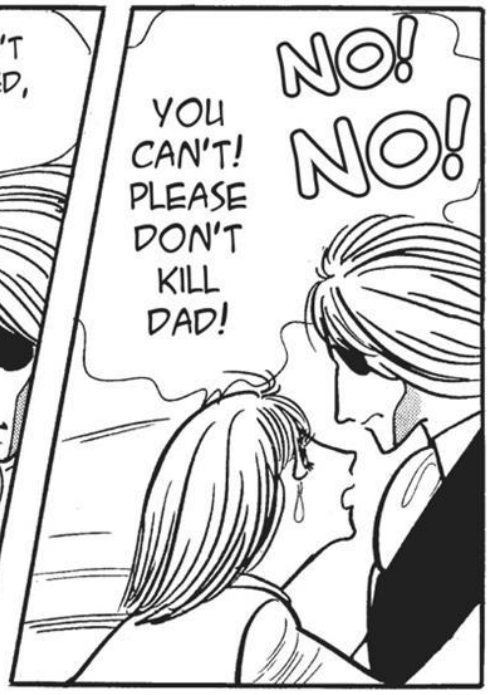

I'D HOPED THE DOCTOR HERE MIGHT BE ABLE TO SAVE DAD.
BLACK JACK MAY BE GOOD, BUT HE CAN'T CURE THIS.

THERE IS ONLY ONE CHOICE!
I CAN GIVE HIM A PEACEFUL DEATH—
IT'S THE ONLY WAY!

UHGG... NGG... I-IT HURTS...!

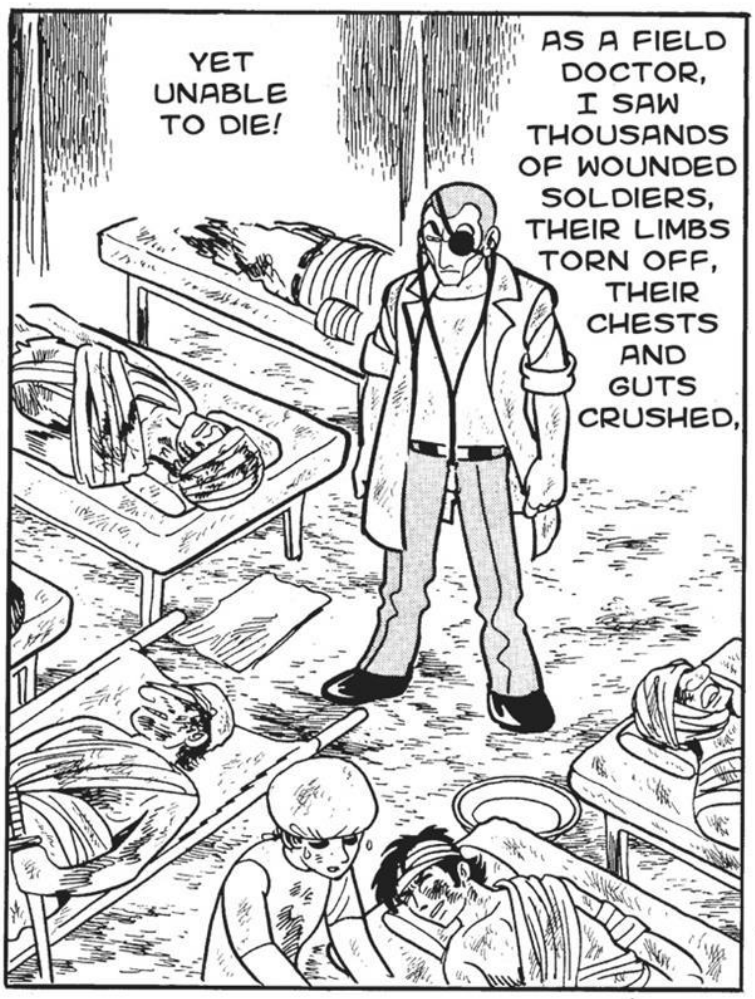

WHAT SALVATION IS THERE FOR AN INCURABLE PATIENT OTHER THAN TO DIE IN PEACE?
I WON'T LET YOU DO THAT HERE.

HE CAN'T BE CURED, YURI.


NO! NO!
YOU CAN'T! PLEASE DON'T KILL DAD!

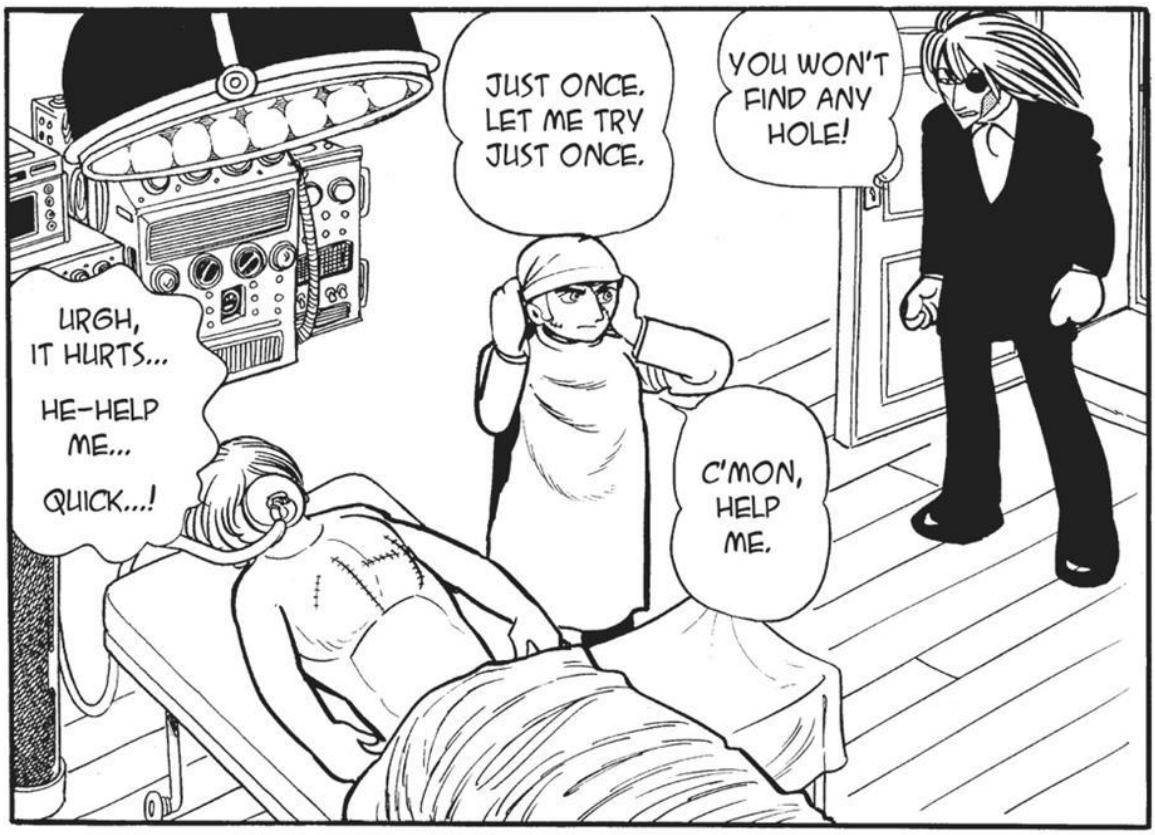
I'LL GIVE YOU PEACE, FRIEND.
HELP M-ME...!
WHEN I INJECTED THEM WITH POISON,

TH-THANK YOU, DOC!
THANK...
THEY DIED WITH JOY ON THEIR FACES.


YET UNABLE TO DIE!
AS A FIELD DOCTOR, I SAW THOUSANDS OF WOUNDED SOLDIERS, THEIR LIMBS TORN OFF, THEIR CHESTS AND GUTS CRUSHED,

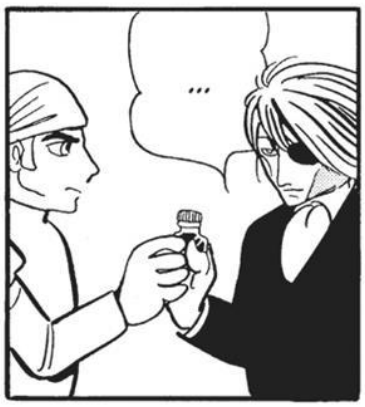
DIDN'T YURI TELL YOU THAT IT'S NO USE?

I'M GONNA OPERATE ON THIS PATIENT.
I'M SICK OF THAT OLD STORY.

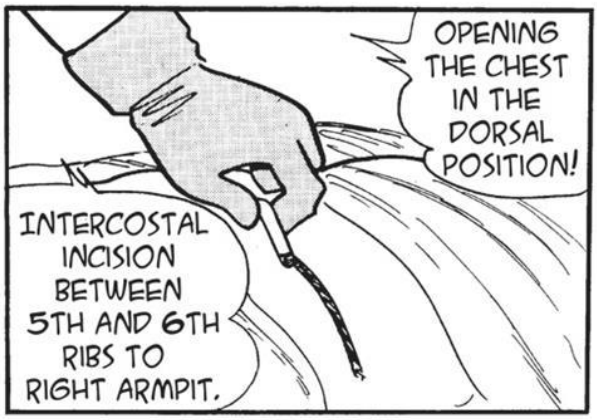

JUST ONCE. LET ME TRY JUST ONCE.
YOU WON'T FIND ANY HOLE!
URGH, IT HURTS...
HE-HELP ME...
QUICK...!
C'MON, HELP ME.

IF YOU ARE, THEN SHOOT HIM A DOSE OF THIS ANALGESIC PLEASE.
ARE YOU GOING TO HELP ME OR NOT?

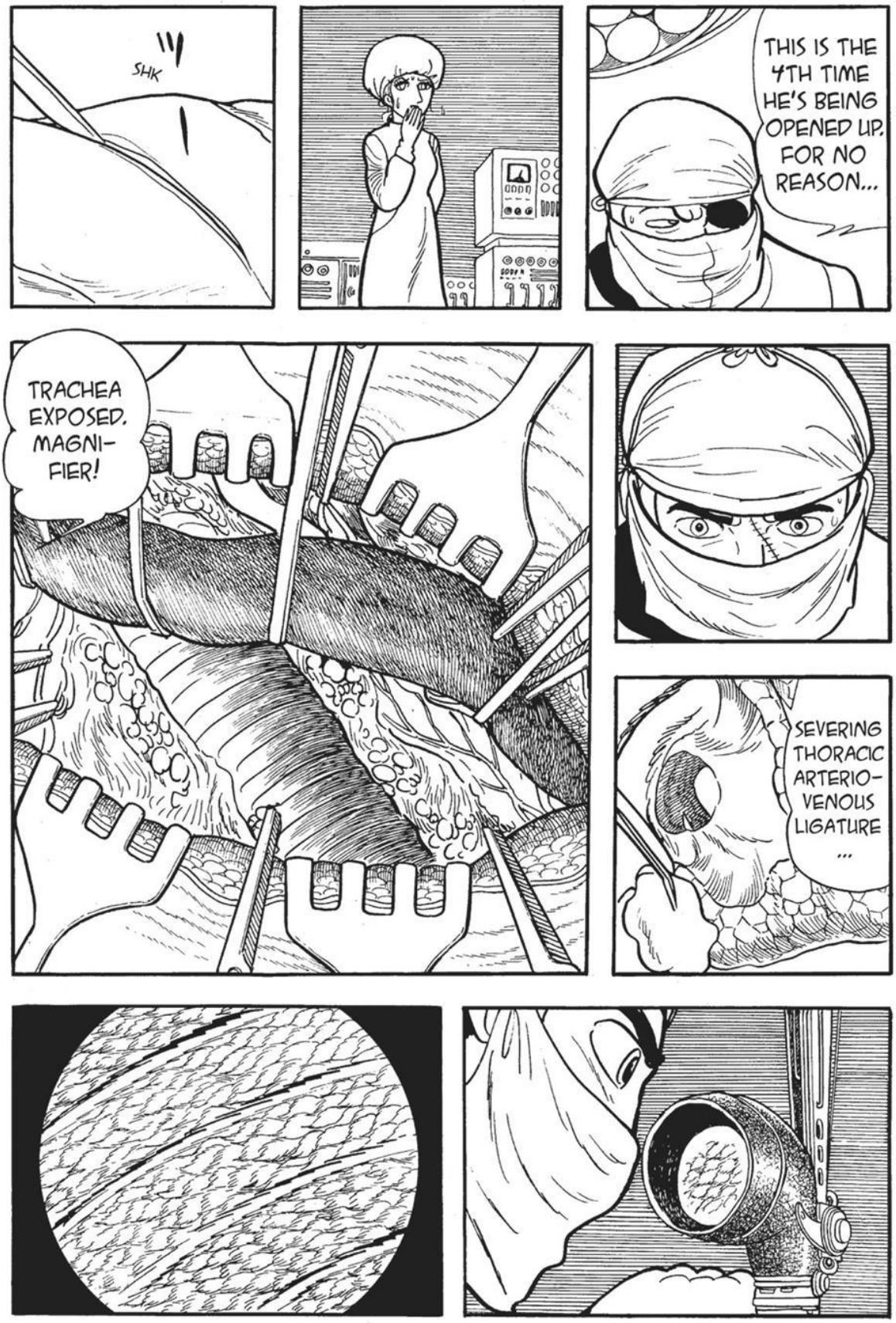
THERE'S NO POINT!

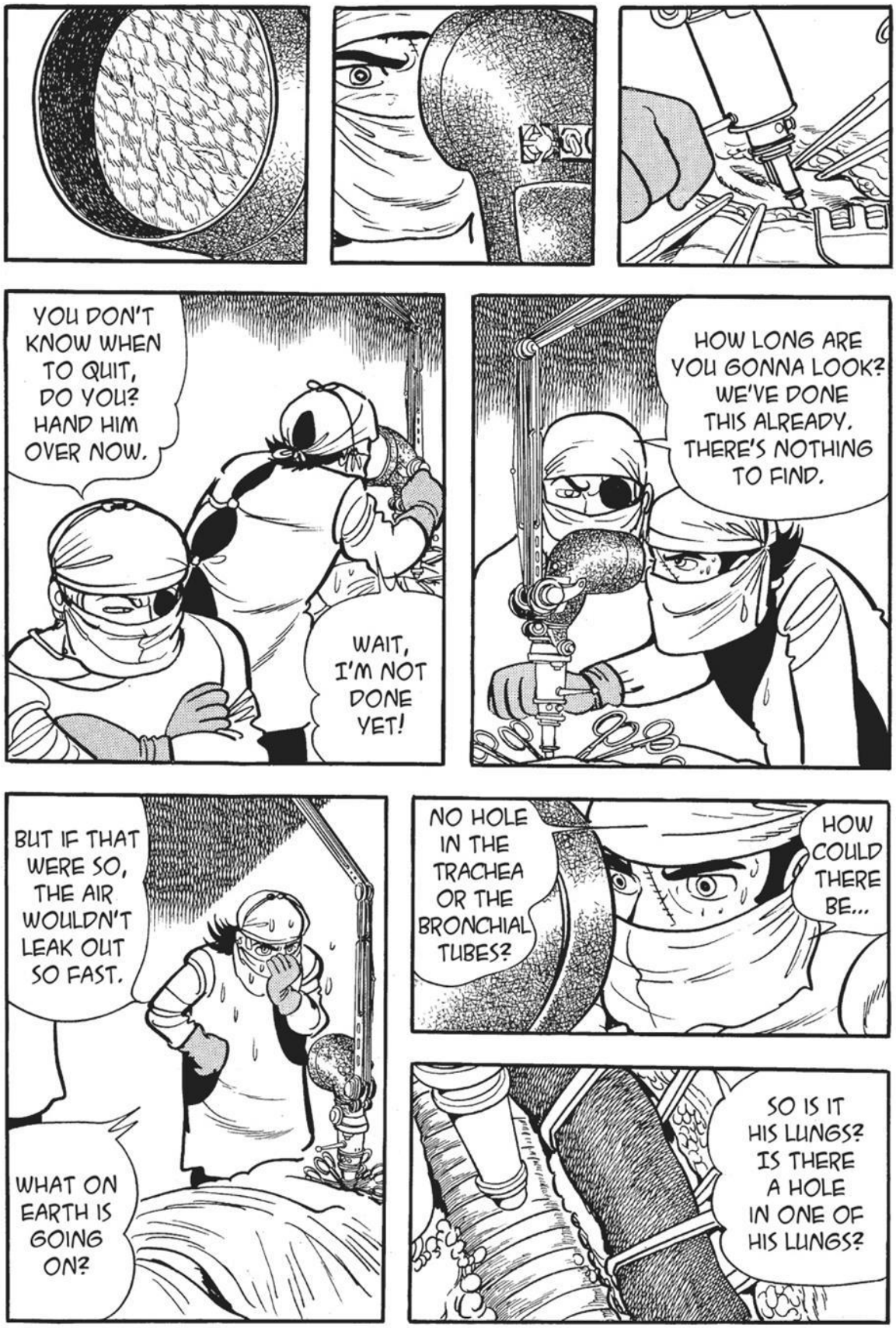

...

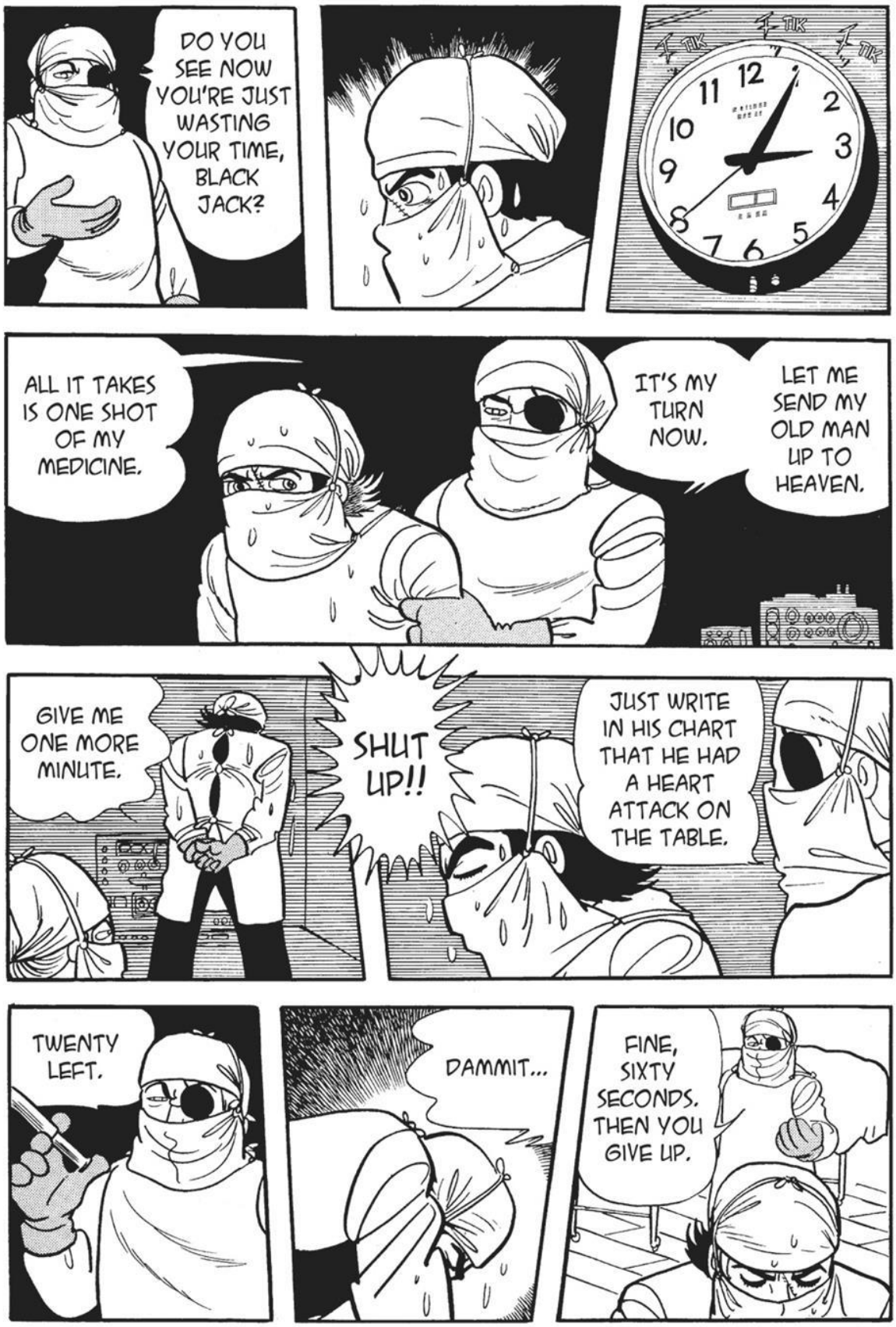
NO! I'M OPER-ATING!
ANESTHE-TIZE THE TRACHEA.

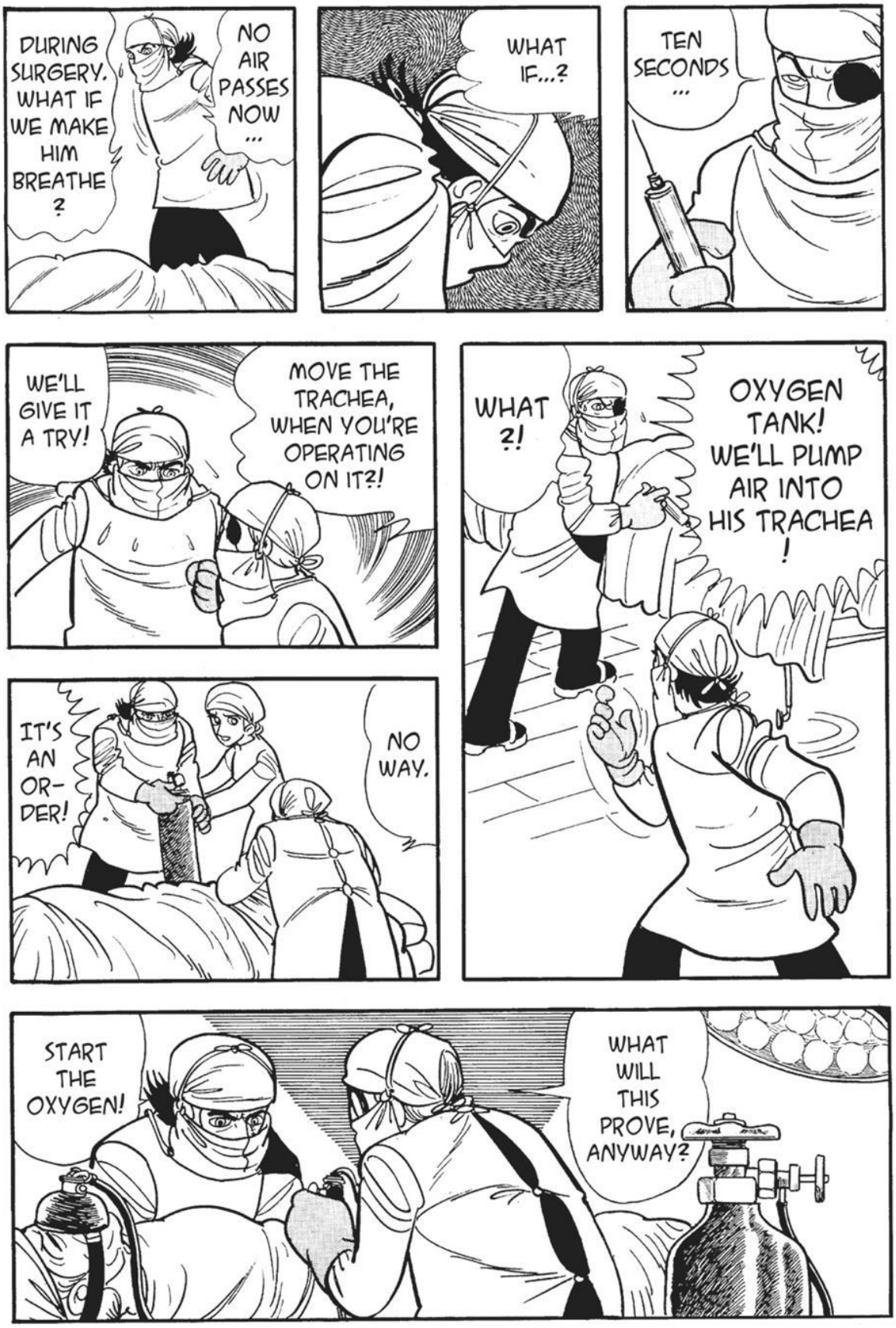

OPENING THE CHEST IN THE DORSAL POSITION!
INTERCOSTAL INCISION BETWEEN 5TH AND 6TH RIBS TO RIGHT ARMPIT.

KIRIKO! THE ANALGESIC, NOT POISON! THROW THAT AWAY!
BLACK JACK, I FAILED TO DO ANYTHING FOR MY OLD MAN. THIS IS MY FAREWELL GIFT TO HIM. LET ME PUT HIM TO REST!


SHK
THIS IS THE 4TH TIME HE'S BEING OPENED UP. FOR NO REASON...
TRACHEA EXPOSED. MAGNI-FIER!
SEVERING THORACIC ARTERIO-VENOUS LIGATURE ...

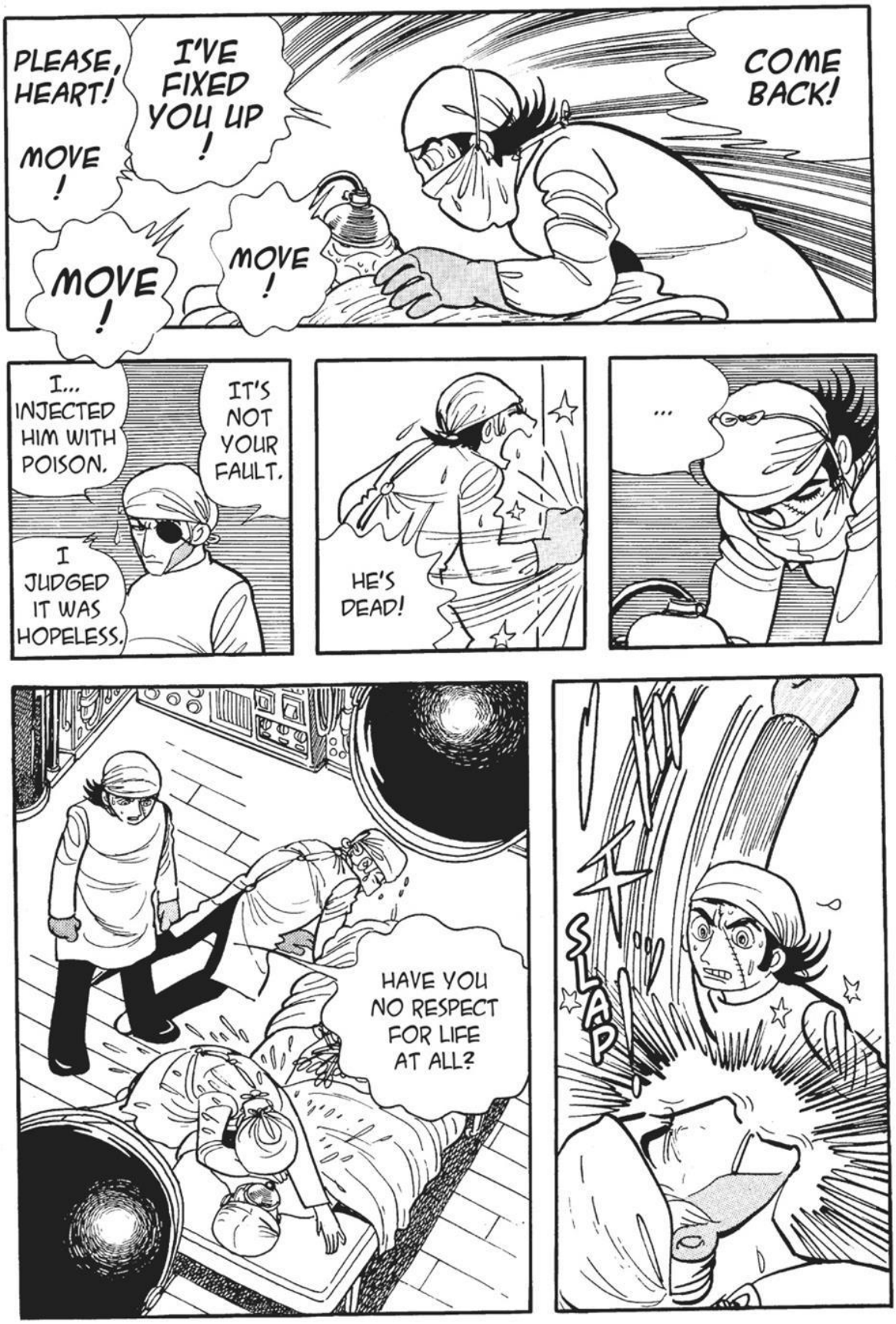

YOU DON'T KNOW WHEN TO QUIT, DO YOU? HAND HIM OVER NOW.
WAIT, I'M NOT DONE YET!
HOW LONG ARE YOU GONNA LOOK? WE'VE DONE THIS ALREADY. THERE'S NOTHING TO FIND.
BUT IF THAT WERE SO, THE AIR WOULDN'T LEAK OUT SO FAST.
WHAT ON EARTH IS GOING ON?
NO HOLE IN THE TRACHEA OR THE BRONCHIAL TUBES?
HOW COULD THERE BE...
SO IS IT HIS LUNGS? IS THERE A HOLE IN ONE OF HIS LUNGS?


DO YOU SEE NOW YOU'RE JUST WASTING YOUR TIME, BLACK JACK?
TIK
TIK
TIK
ALL IT TAKES IS ONE SHOT OF MY MEDICINE.
IT'S MY TURN NOW.
LET ME SEND MY OLD MAN UP TO HEAVEN.
GIVE ME ONE MORE MINUTE.
SHUT UP!!
JUST WRITE IN HIS CHART THAT HE HAD A HEART ATTACK ON THE TABLE.
TWENTY LEFT.
DAMMIT...
FINE, SIXTY SECONDS. THEN YOU GIVE UP.

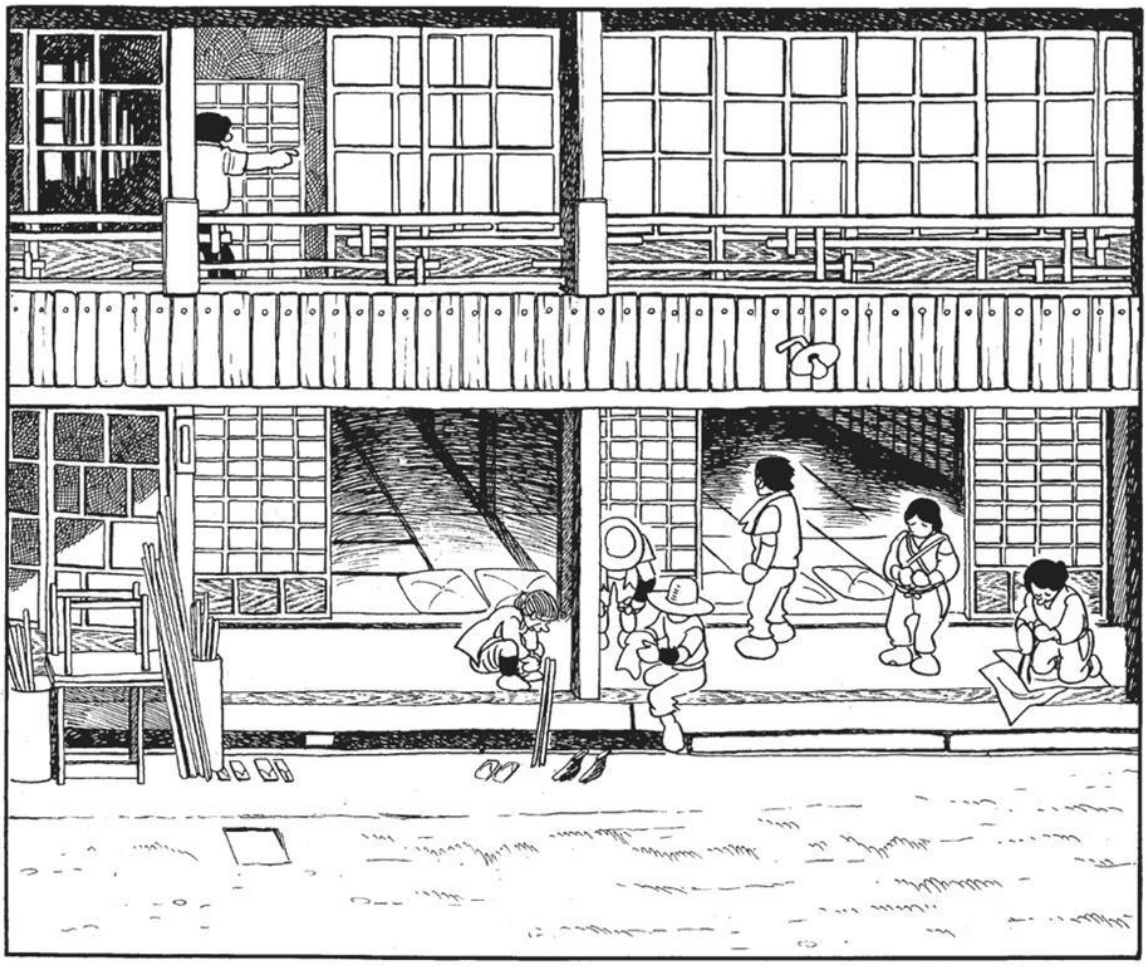

DURING SURGERY. WHAT IF WE MAKE HIM BREATHE ?
NO AIR PASSES NOW ...
WHAT IF...?
TEN SECONDS ...
WE'LL GIVE IT A TRY!
MOVE THE TRACHEA, WHEN YOU'RE OPERATING ON IT?!
WHAT ?!
OXYGEN TANK! WE'LL PUMP AIR INTO HIS TRACHEA !
IT'S AN OR-DER!
NO WAY.
START THE OXYGEN!
WHAT WILL THIS PROVE, ANYWAY?

PSSSS
FSSSS
I FOUND THE HOLE!
LOOK, KIRIKO!
NO WONDER WE COULDN'T FIND IT.
IT'S A VALVE! NORMALLY IT'S CLOSED, BUT WHEN AIR PASSES THROUGH IT OPENS! A VALVE!!

"SOB"
OHH!
I CAN SAVE HIM.
...
I'VE FOUND THE HOLE!
THE HEART? WHY?
THE OSCILLO-GRAPH ...!
HUH ?!
OKAY, CLOSING HIM UP!
CARDIO-TONIC!
DAD !!
WHAT HAP-PENED?
NO... HIS HEART STOPPED.

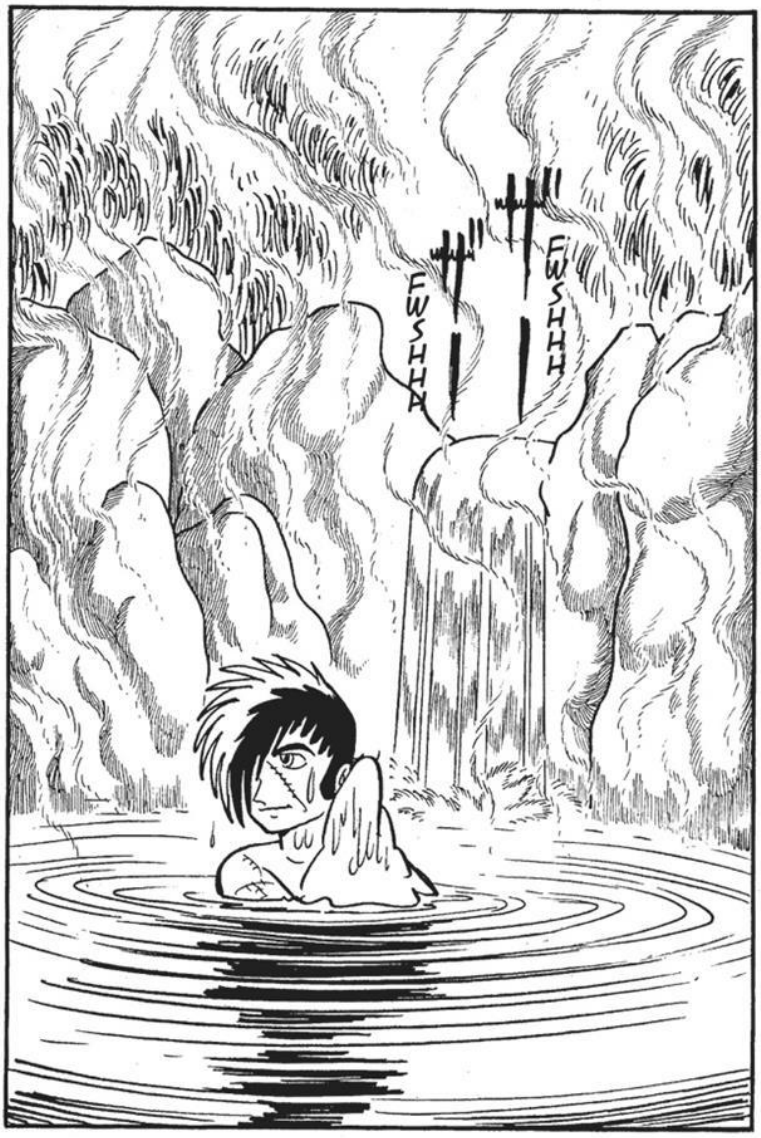

PLEASE, HEART! MOVE!
I'VE FIXED YOU UP!
COME BACK!
MOVE!
MOVE!
I... INJECTED HIM WITH POISON.
IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT.
I JUDGED IT WAS HOPELESS.
HE'S DEAD!
...
HAVE YOU NO RESPECT FOR LIFE AT ALL?
SLAP!

# TWO AT THE BATHS

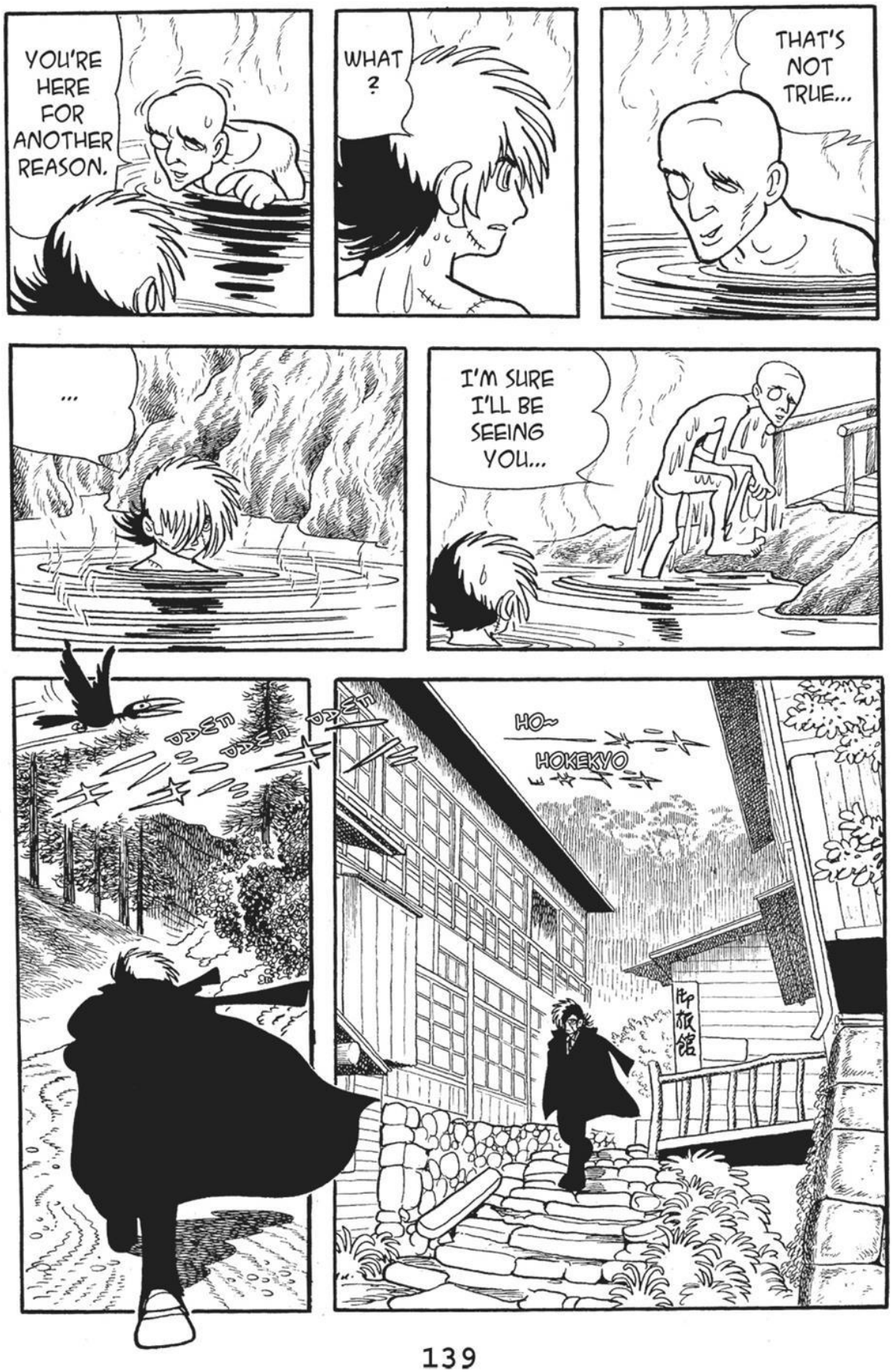


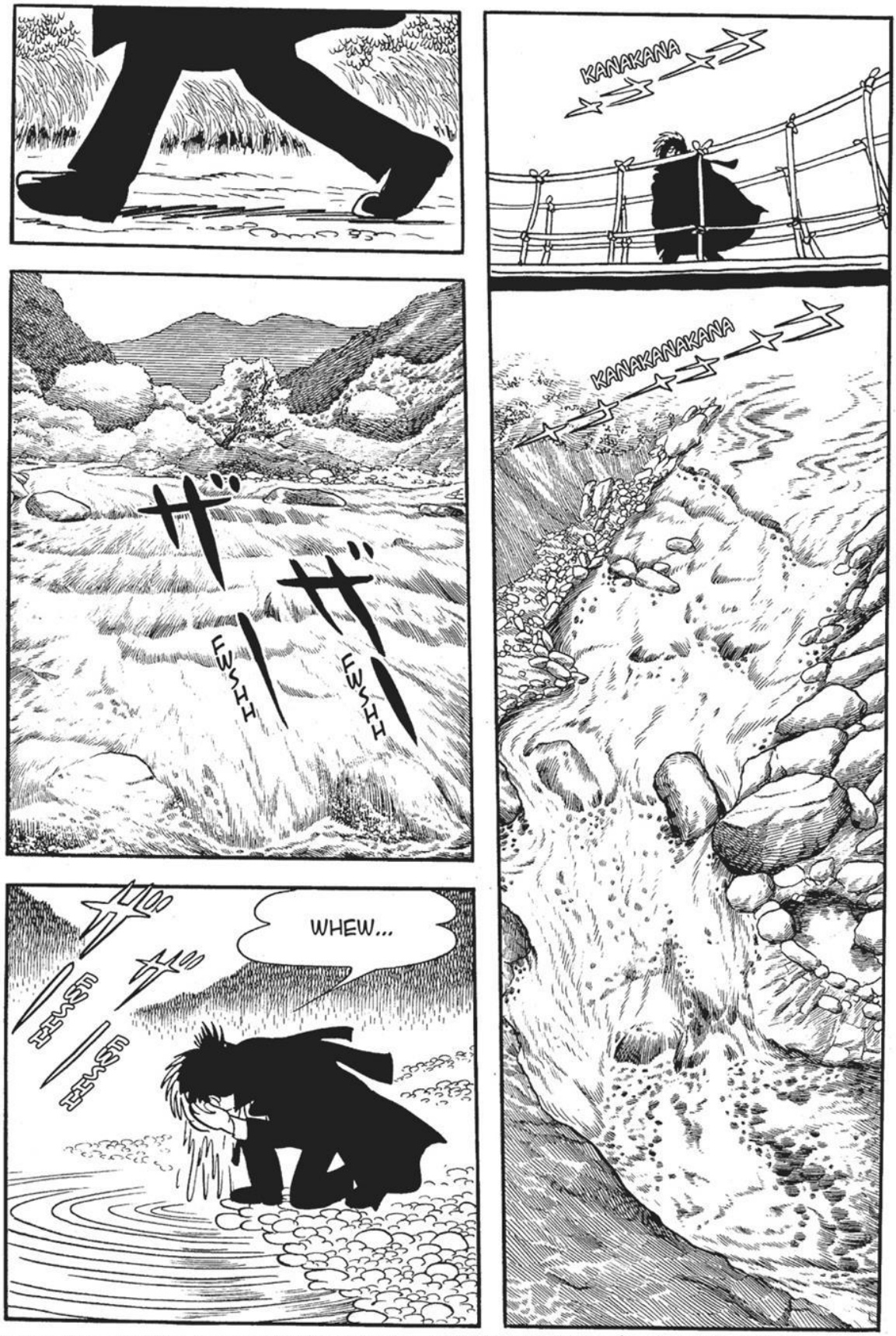
♪FOR THE SAKE OF OTHERS~

HEE
HEE
HEE
...

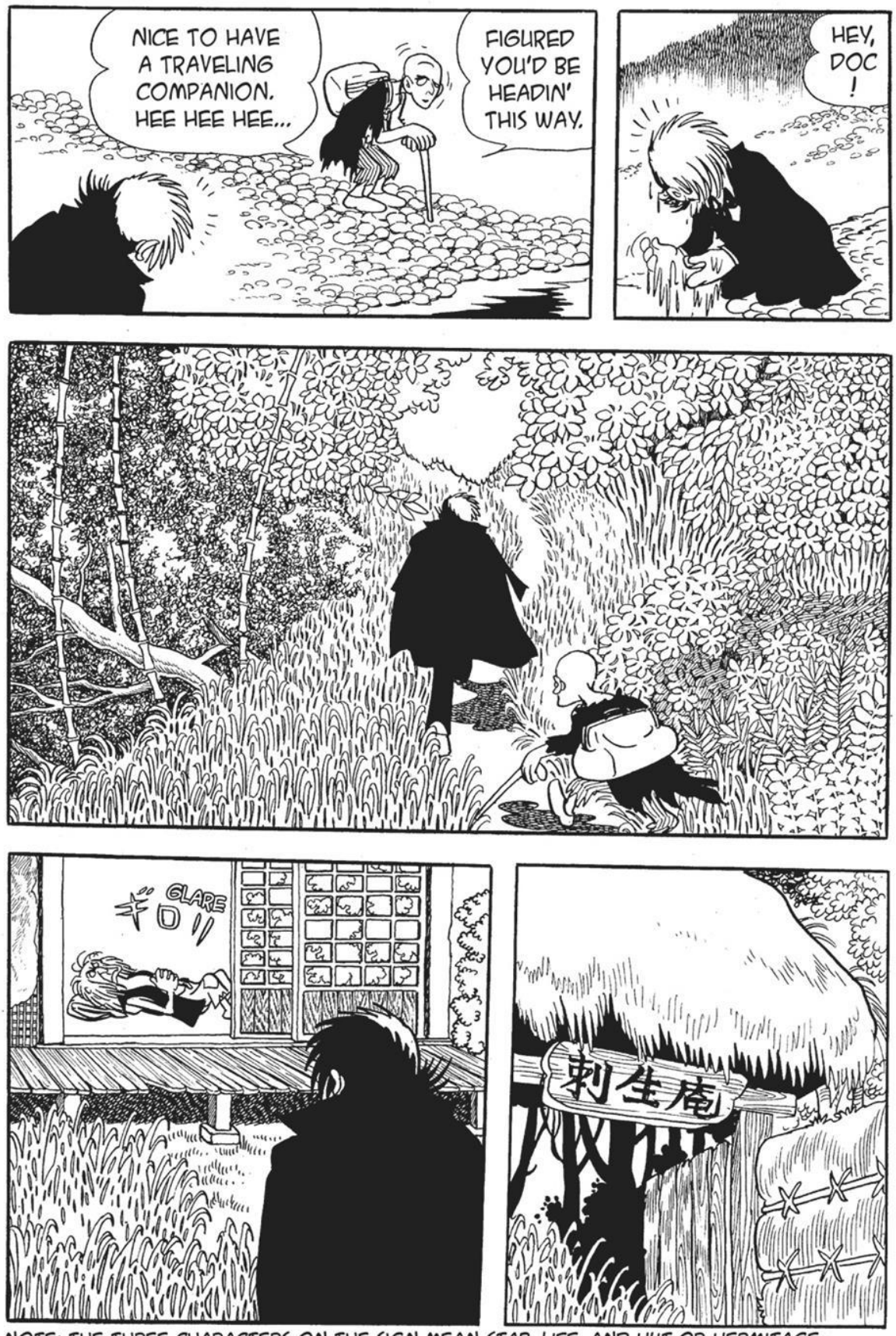

FWSHHH
FWSHHH

IT'S ME, DOCTOR. BEEN A WHILE, HEE HEE...
WHO'S THERE ?!
BIWAMARU!
GRIN
MIND IF I JOIN YOU? HEE HEE HEE.
MY OLD SURGERY SCARS ACHE.
MOST SOULS WHO COME TO PITBOTTOM HOT SPRINGS ARE AILING OLD FOLKS.
ON VACATION, DOCTOR? NEVER THOUGHT I'D SEE YA IN SUCH A PLACE!

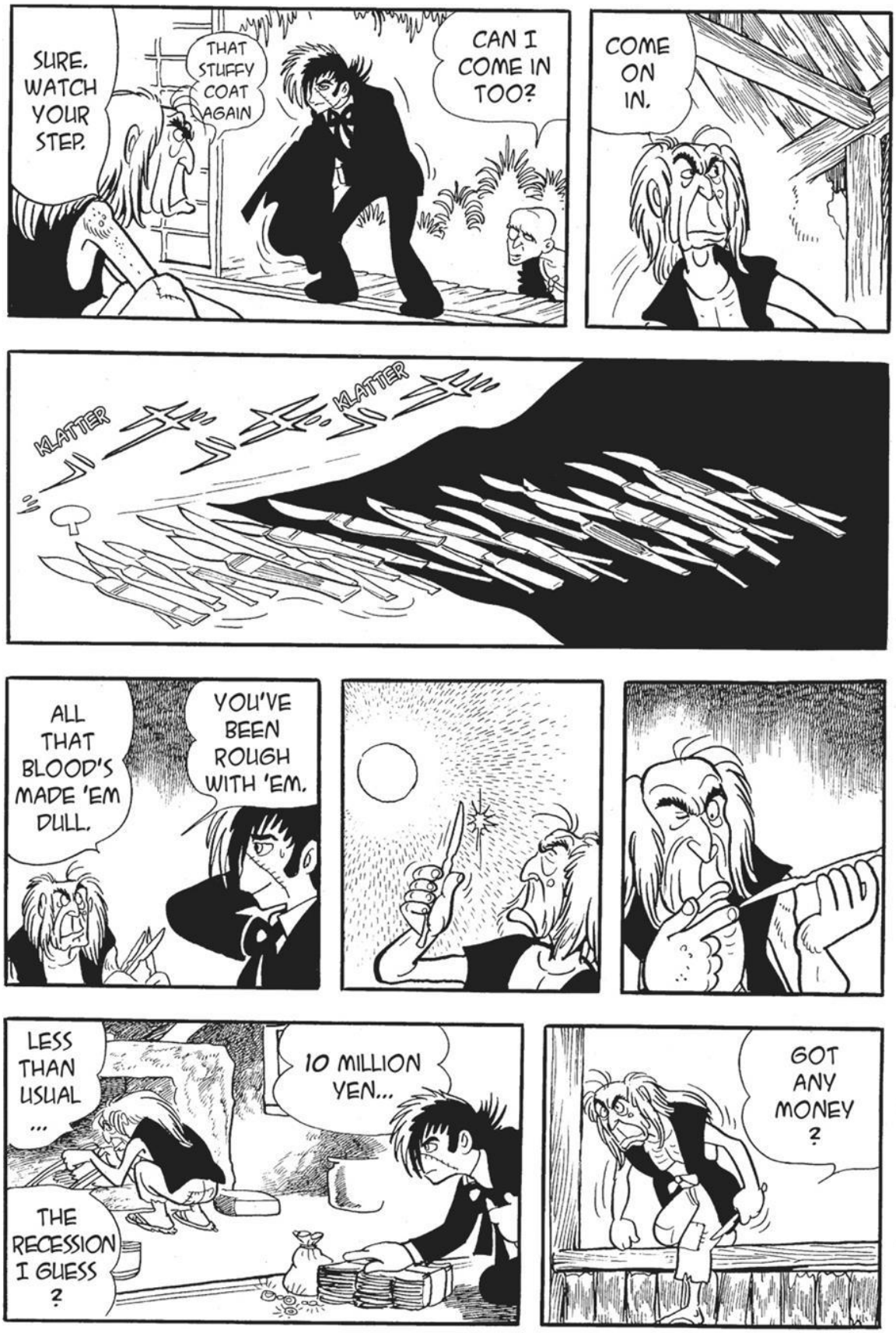

YOU'RE HERE FOR ANOTHER REASON.
WHAT ?
THAT'S NOT TRUE...
...
I'M SURE I'LL BE SEEING YOU...
HO~
HOKEKYO
民宿旅館

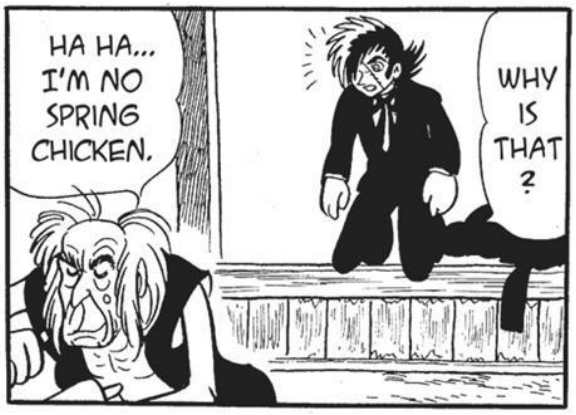



NOTE: THE BIRDCALL ON THE PREVIOUS PAGE IS THE BUSH WARBLER'S. EVENING CICADA ("HIGURASHI") CRY IN THE RIGHT-HAND PANELS ON THIS PAGE.

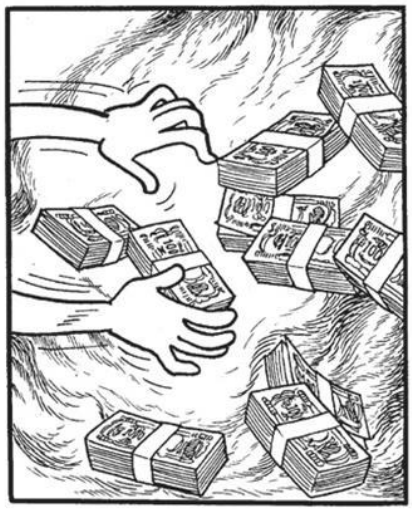



NOTE: THE THREE CHARACTERS ON THE SIGN MEAN *STAB, LIFE,* AND *HUT* OR *HERMITAGE.*

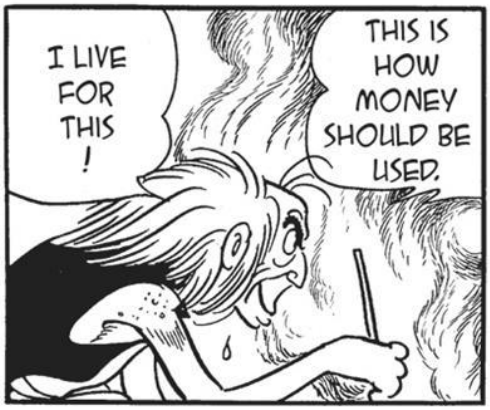

SURE. WATCH YOUR STEP.
THAT STUFFY COAT AGAIN
CAN I COME IN TOO?
COME ON IN.
KLATTER
KLATTER
ALL THAT BLOOD'S MADE 'EM DULL.
YOU'VE BEEN ROUGH WITH 'EM.
LESS THAN USUAL ...
10 MILLION YEN...
THE RECESSION I GUESS ?
GOT ANY MONEY ?


HA HA... I'M NO SPRING CHICKEN.
WHY IS THAT ?

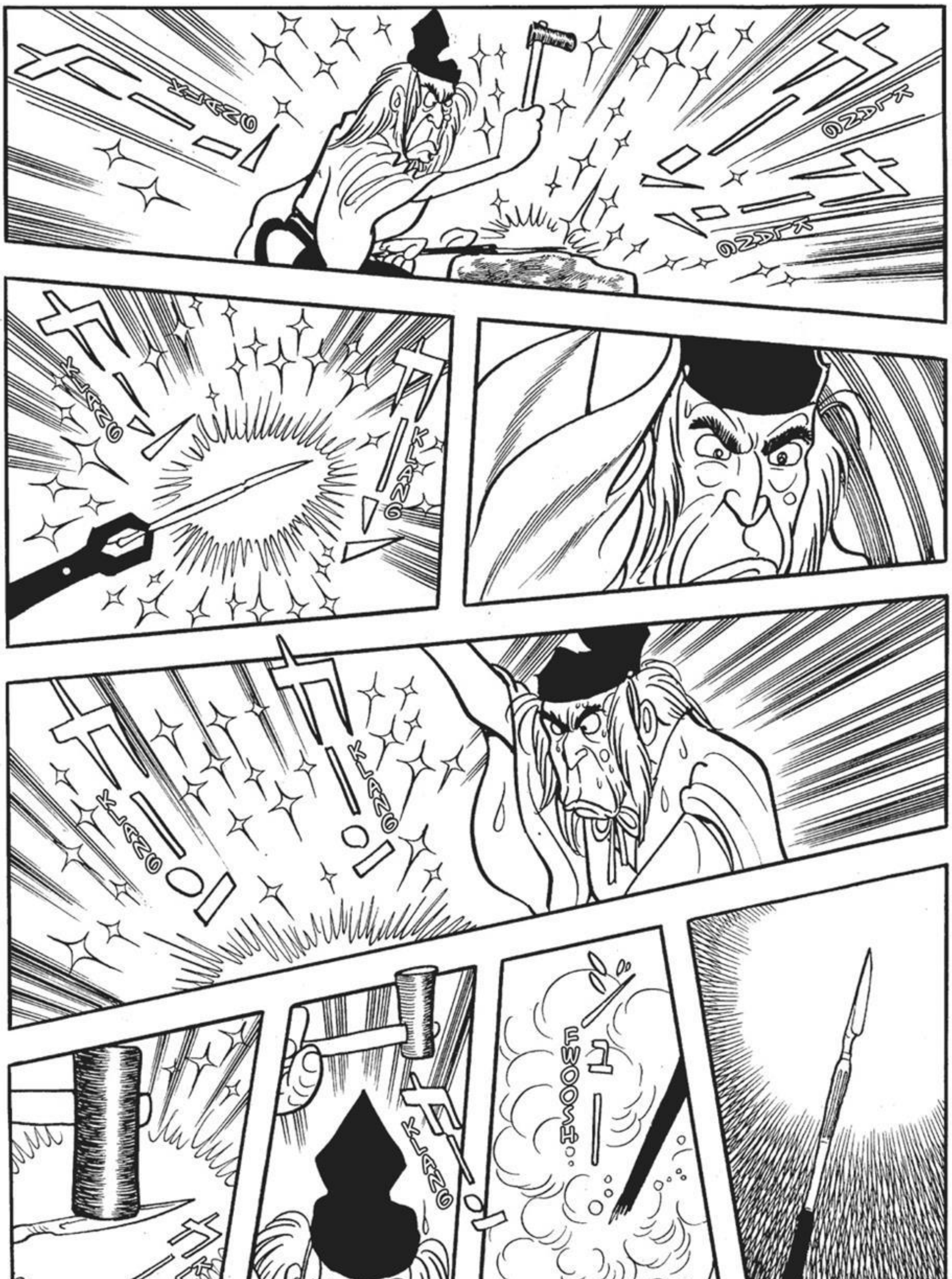
BUT THIS'LL PROBABLY BE THE LAST JOB I DO FOR YOU.
OKAY, I'LL TAKE IT...

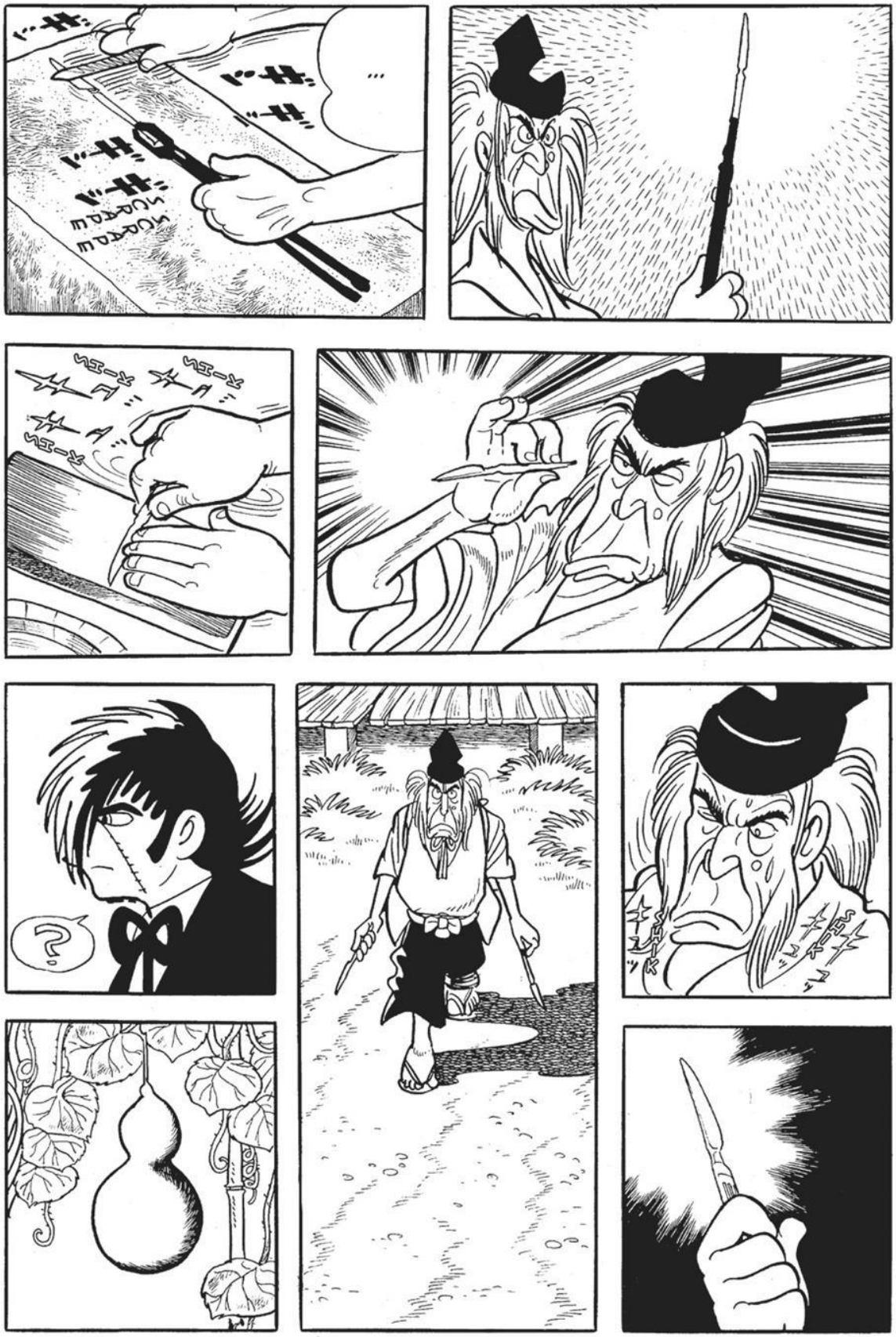


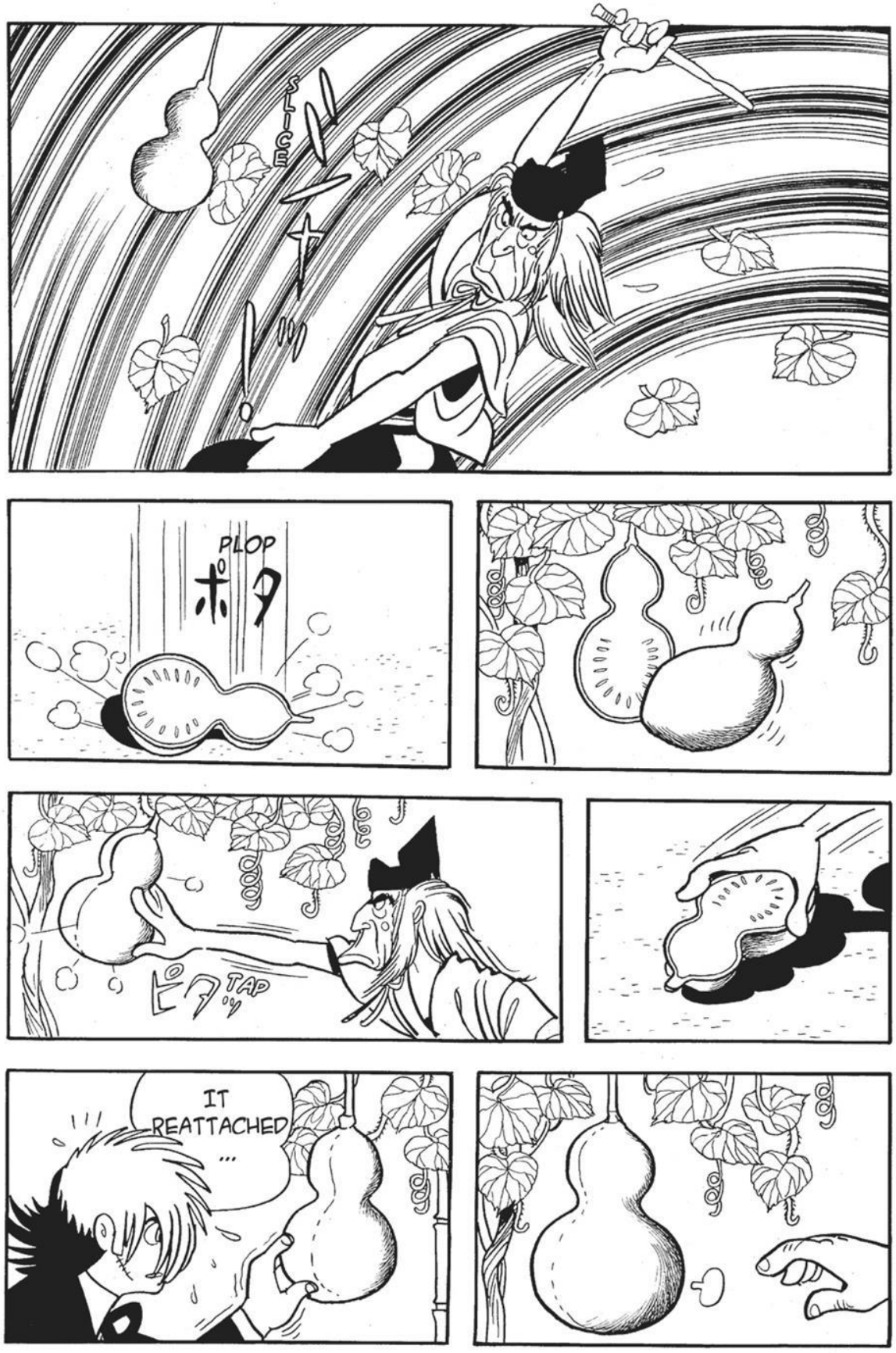
BOARR


I LIVE FOR THIS !
THIS IS HOW MONEY SHOULD BE USED.

!
!

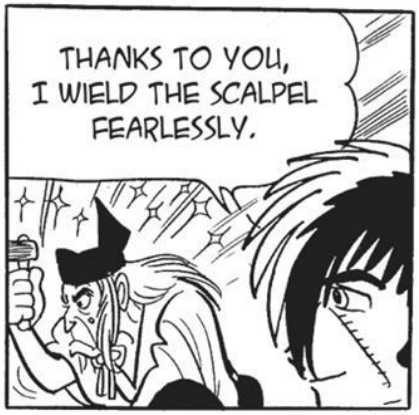

KLANG
KLANG
KLANG
KLANG
KLANG
KLANG
KLANG
FWOOSH…
KLANG

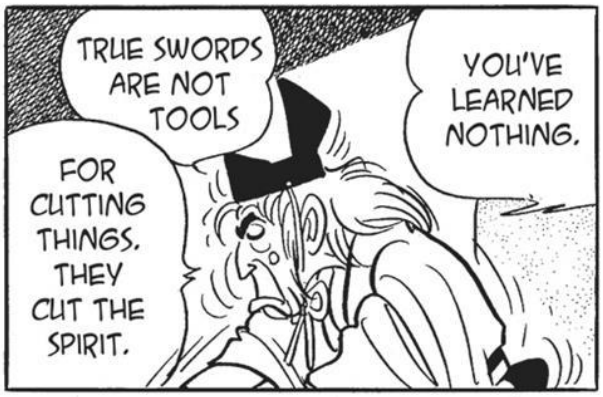

...
ヘエーッ
ヘエーッ
ヘエーッ
ヘエーッ
?

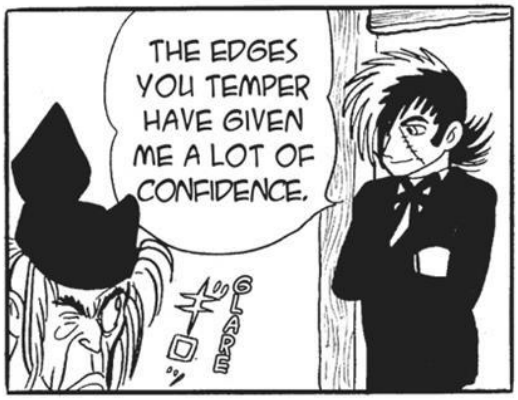

SLICE
PLOP
ポタ
ピタ TAP
IT REATTACHED ...

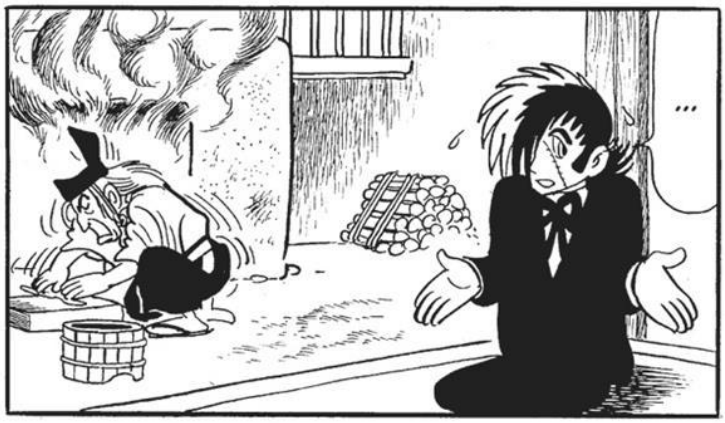
YOU'RE THE BEST SWORD-SMITH EVER!

SUCH A LOVELY SHINE... MMM!
TEN MILLION FOR THESE IS A STEAL!


THANKS TO YOU, I WIELD THE SCALPEL FEARLESSLY.

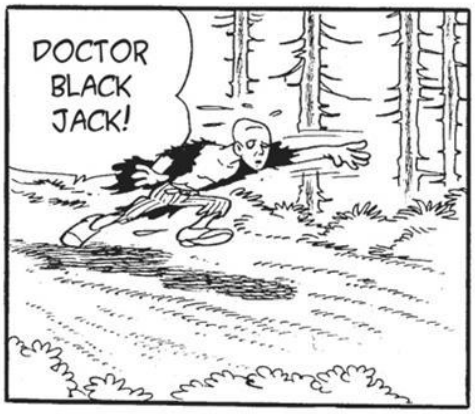

TRUE SWORDS ARE NOT TOOLS
FOR CUTTING THINGS. THEY CUT THE SPIRIT.
YOU'VE LEARNED NOTHING.

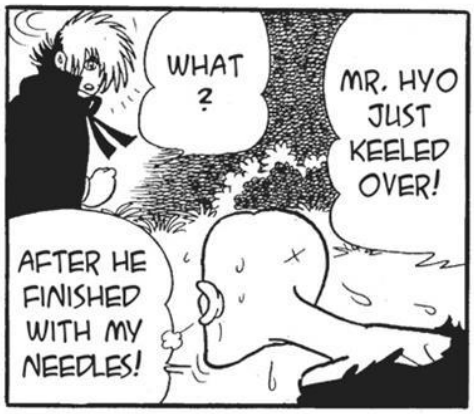

THE EDGES YOU TEMPER HAVE GIVEN ME A LOT OF CONFIDENCE.
GLARE

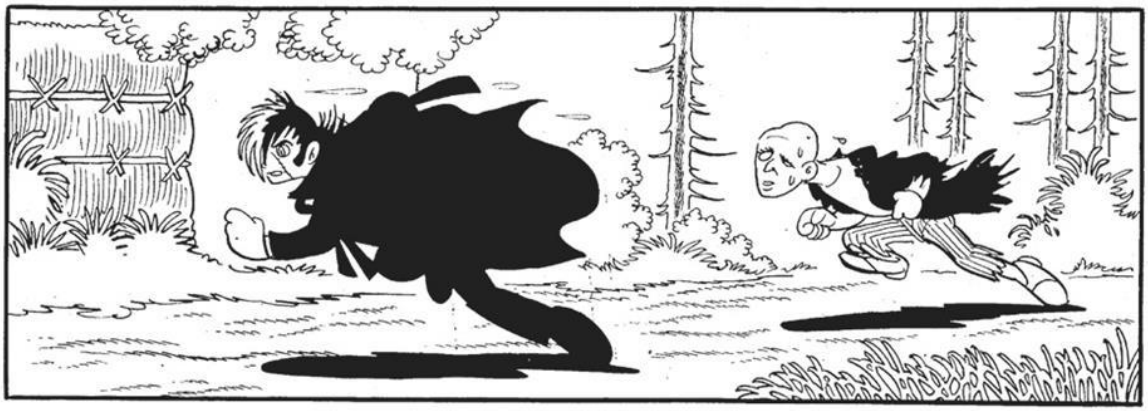

...

YOU DOCTORS ARE ALL THE SAME. BRUTES, ONE AND ALL!

KURGO
KURGO
OF THOSE, YOU'VE MISSED AND INJURED TWO HUNDRED.
DEAD ON, SIR ...
YOU'VE NEEDLED 10,000 PEOPLE.
HURL
...RIGHT AGAIN, I'M AFRAID.
A WASP.
?

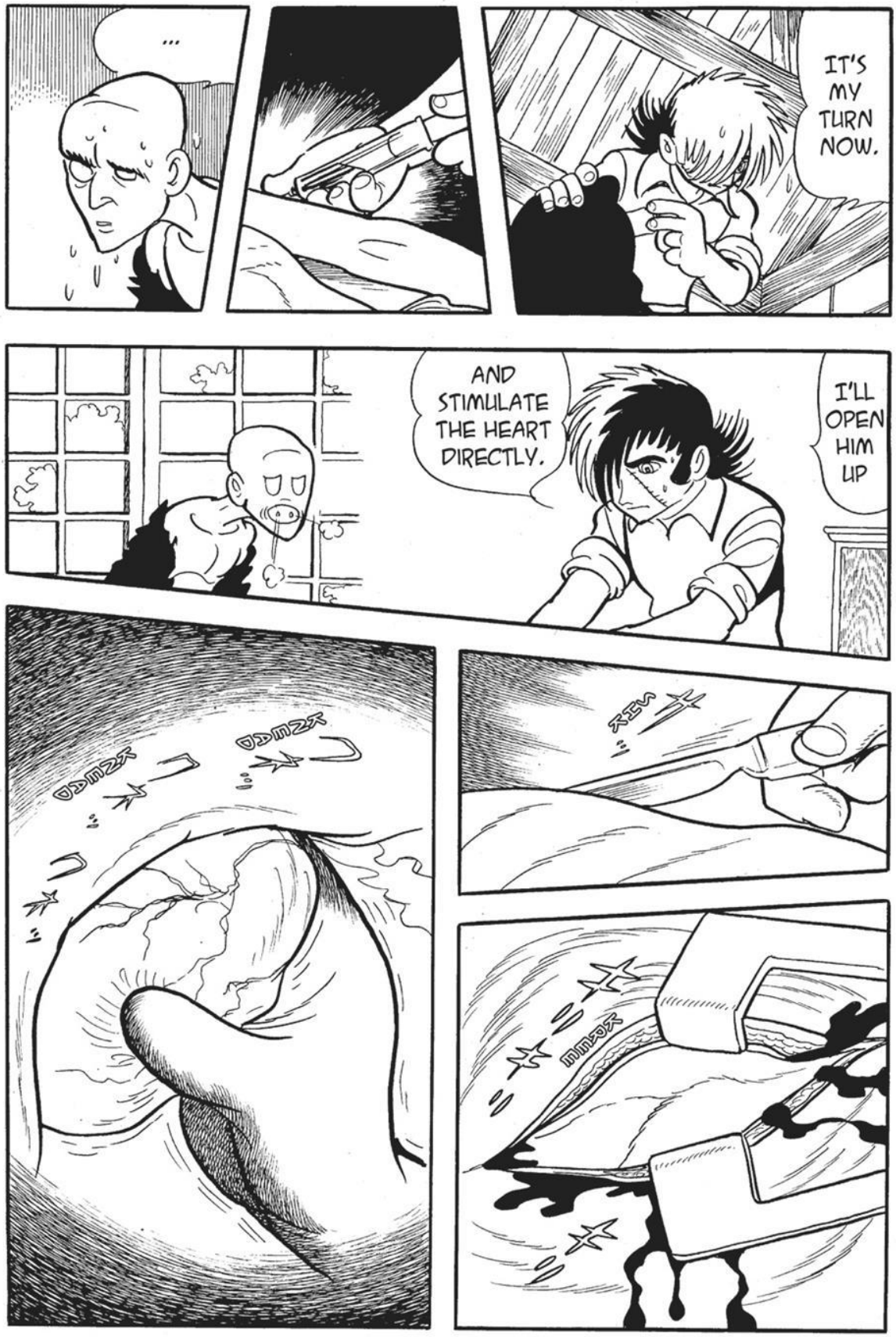


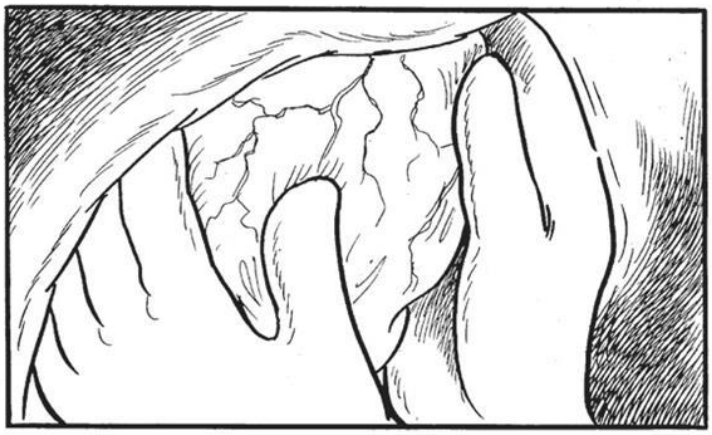


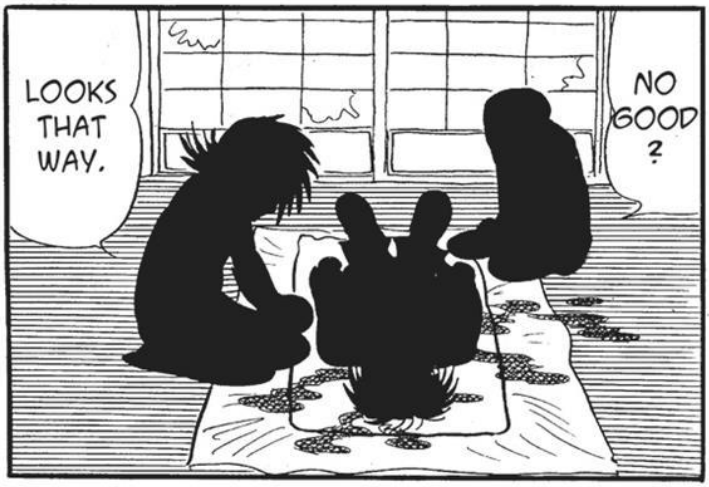



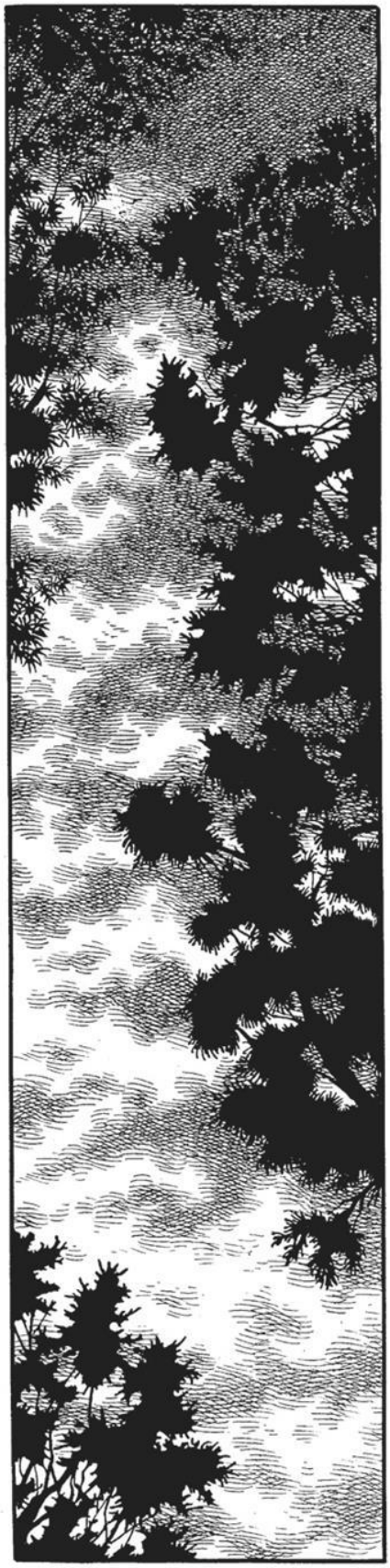
NOTE: THE HUT'S SIGN EARLIER AND NOW THE NAME "HYO JISAI" IMPLY A CHINESE ORIGIN OR INFLUENCE FOR THE SWORDSMITH ("HYO" IS A JAPANESE READING OF *FENG*).

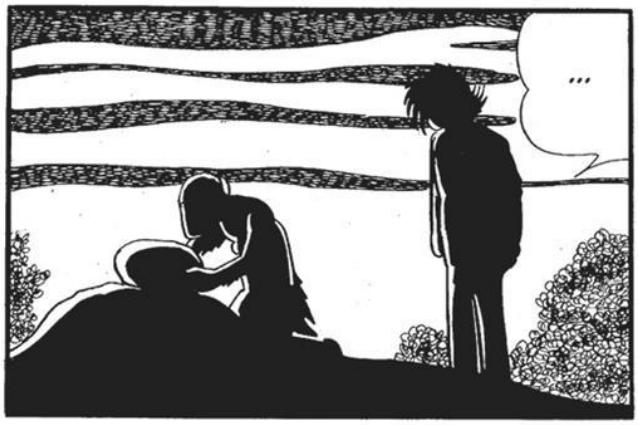
THERE!
スーッ
...
YES, VERY GOOD.
I'M SURE IT WAS THE RIGHT SPOT! I FELT IT!
I'LL KEEP UP THE CPR.
THAT OUGHT TO HAVE DONE IT...
STILL NO PULSE.

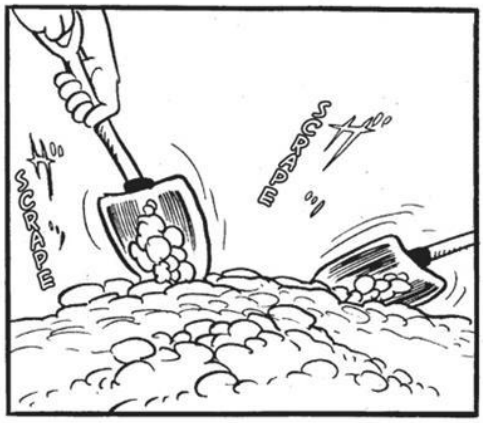

...
IT'S MY TURN NOW.
AND STIMULATE THE HEART DIRECTLY.
I'LL OPEN HIM UP



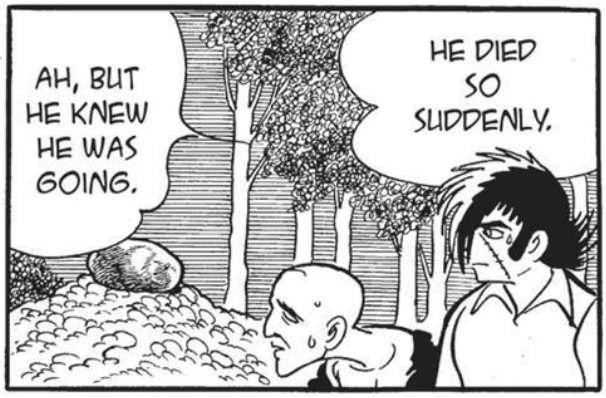

LOOKS THAT WAY.
NO GOOD ?

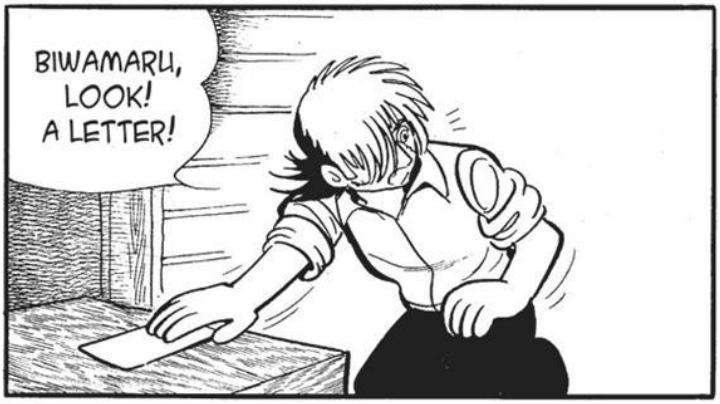



...


SUCKRAW
SUCKRAW

I'VE LOST A LITTLE CONFI-DENCE.


AH, BUT HE KNEW HE WAS GOING.
HE DIED SO SUDDENLY.

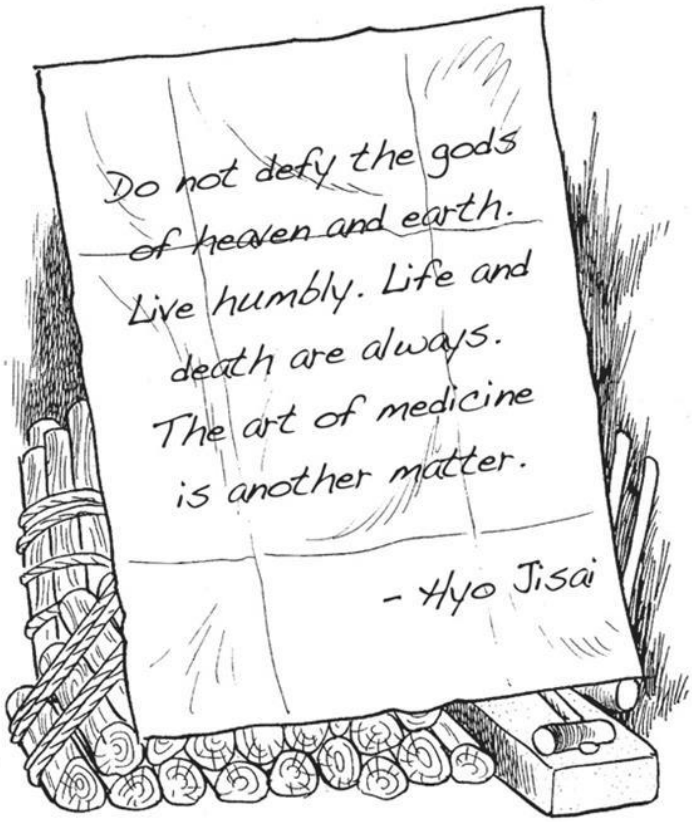

BIWAMARU, LOOK! A LETTER!

CHIRP
CHIRP

HE SAW EVERYTHING, EVEN THAT WE WERE COMING.

IT'S TO BOTH OF US.
HIS WILL ?

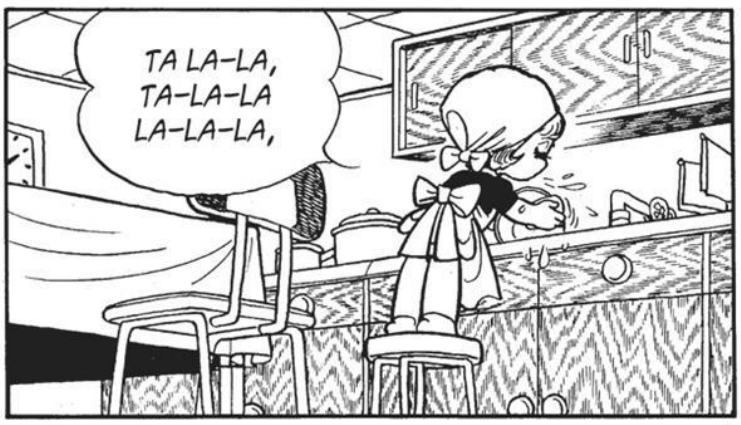
LIFE AND DEATH ARE ALWAYS... THE ART OF MEDICINE IS ANOTHER MATTER...

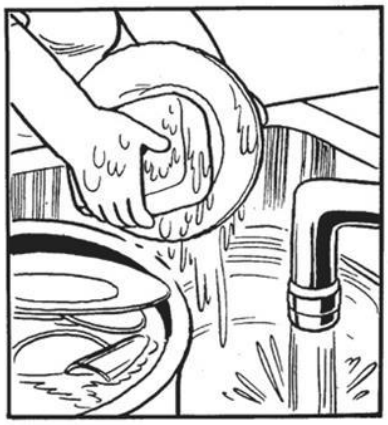

Do not defy the gods of heaven and earth. Live humbly. Life and death are always. The art of medicine is another matter.
- Hyo Jisai

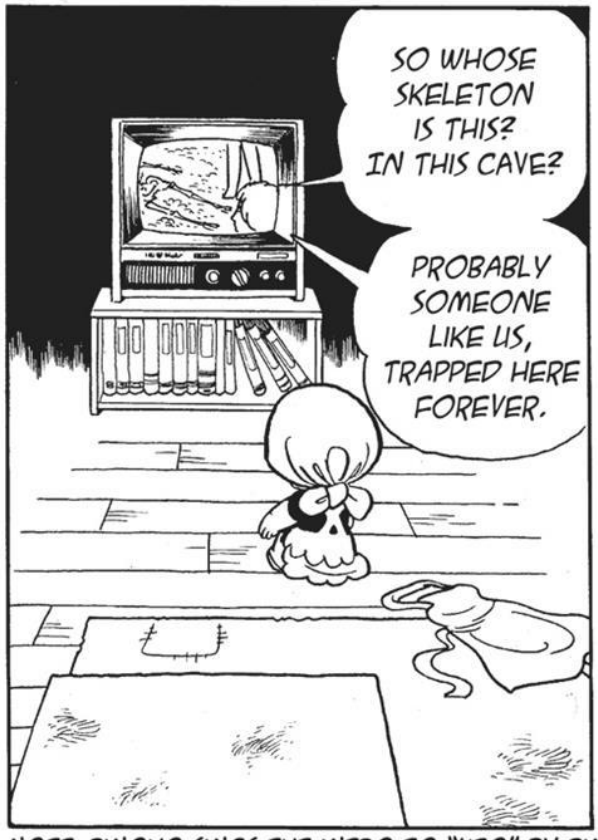
ALL I'M GOOD FOR IS CUTTING.
I MIGHT NEVER UNDERSTAND IT, I'M AFRAID.

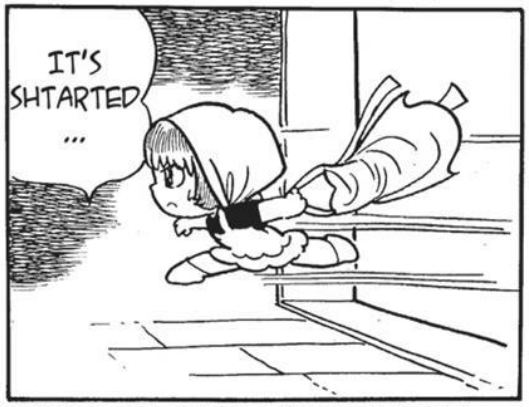
WE'LL MEET AGAIN WHEN WE UNDERSTAND THAT LETTER, HEE HEE!

# PINOKO'S MYSTERY



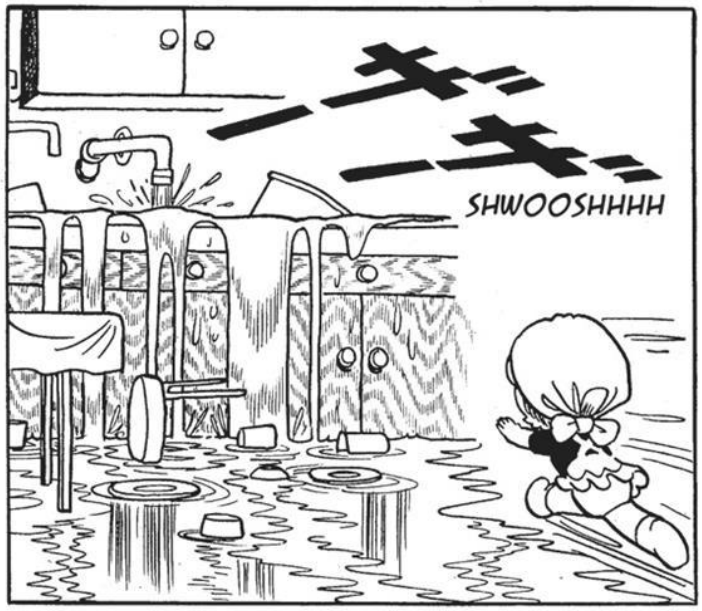


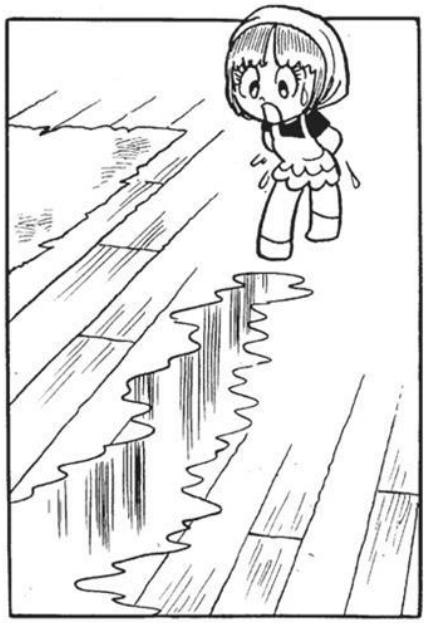


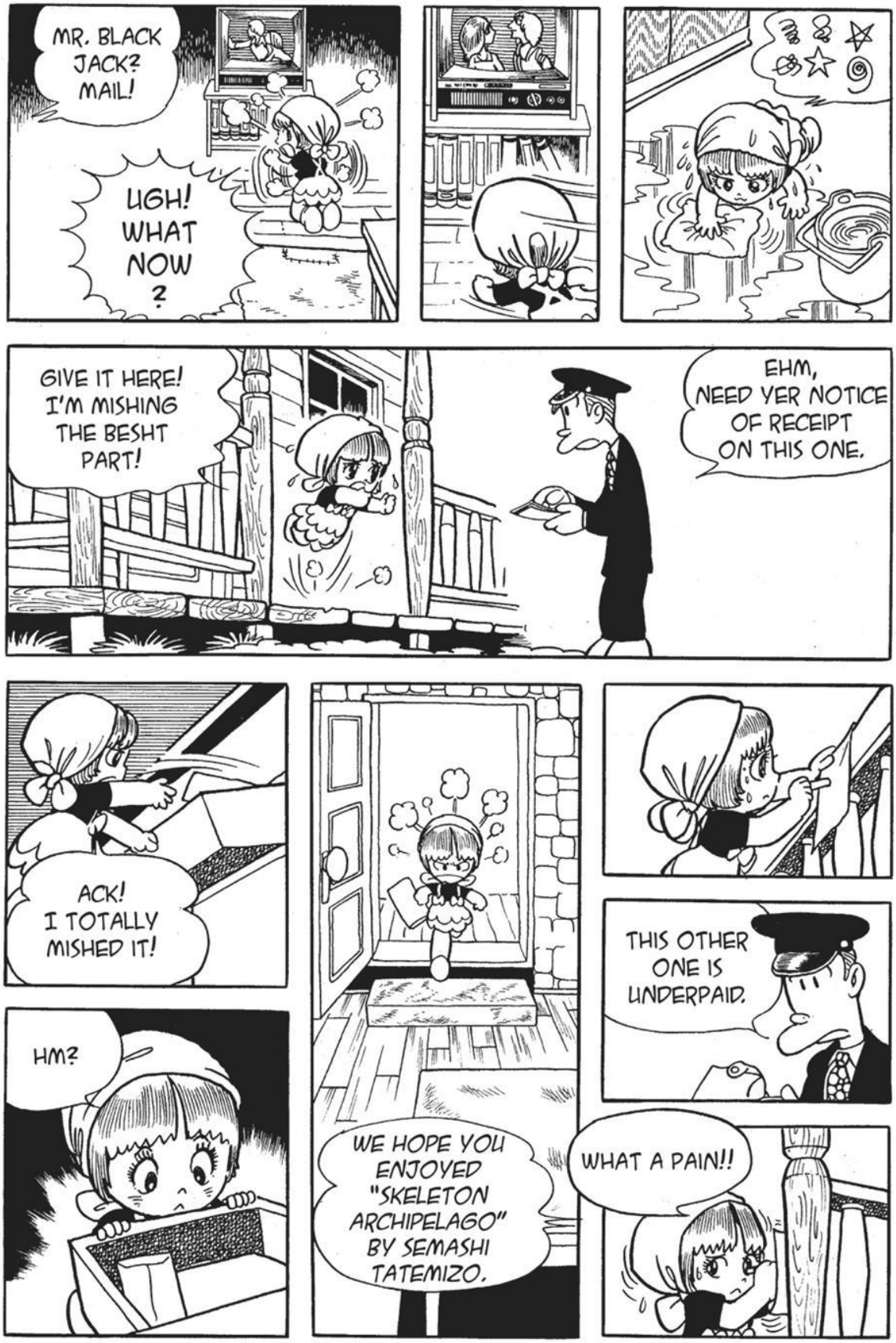

NOTE: PINOKO SINGS THE INTRO TO "UFO" BY *PINK LADY*, A GIRL SONG-AND-DANCE DUO THAT ENJOYED STARDOM IN THE EARLY 80S, INSPIRING MANY A SIMILAR OUTFIT.

AT HIGH TIDE, IT WILL FLOOD! WE'RE DONE FOR!
IS THERE REALLY NO WAY OUT OF THIS PLACE?

EEP !
WATER!!
W... WATER
IT'S LEAKING IN...

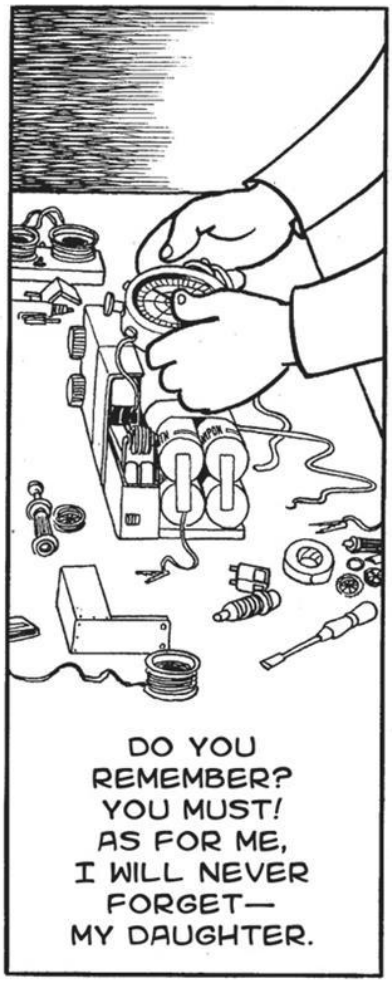

SHWOOSHHHH

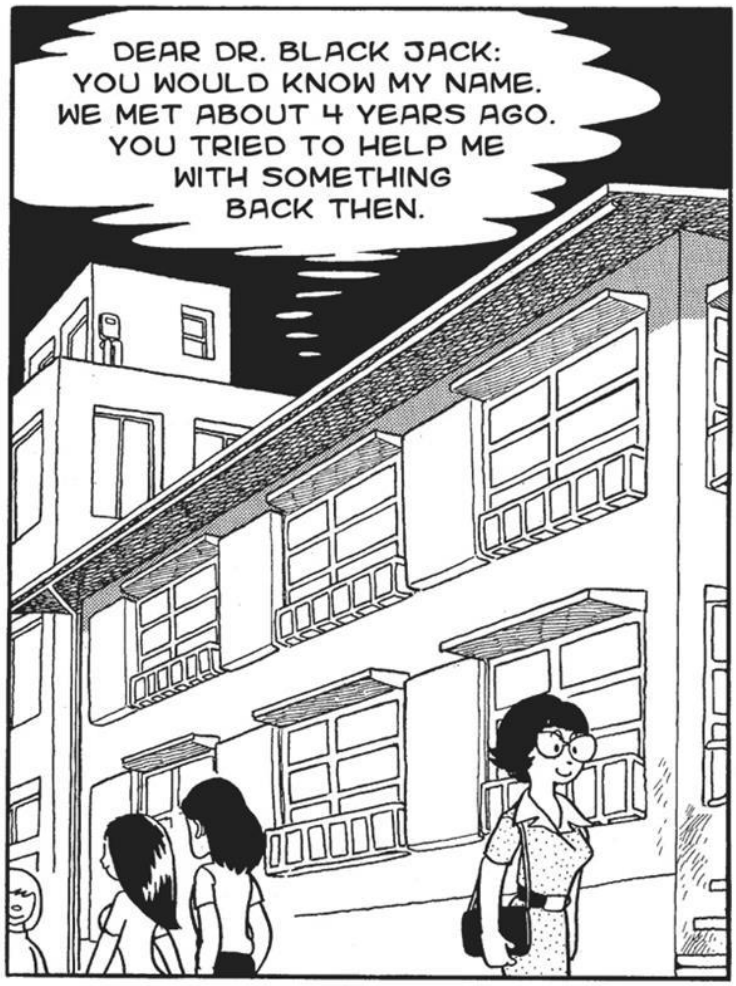


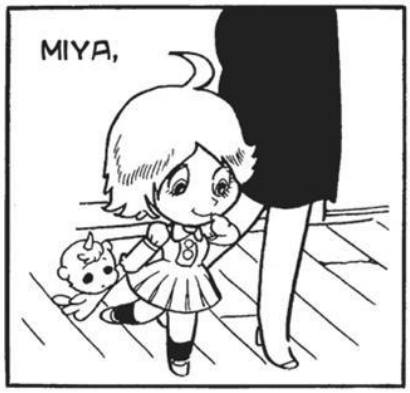



NOTE: "SEMASHI TATEMIZO" PLAYS ON SEISHI YOKOMIZO, A MAJOR HORROR-MYSTERY WRITER WHO OFTEN EMPLOYED CLAUSTROPHOBIC ISLAND SETTINGS. "YOKO" MEANS *SIDE* AND "MIZO" *DITCH*; "TATEMIZO" MEANS *VERTICAL DITCH* AND "SEMASHI" *NARROW*.

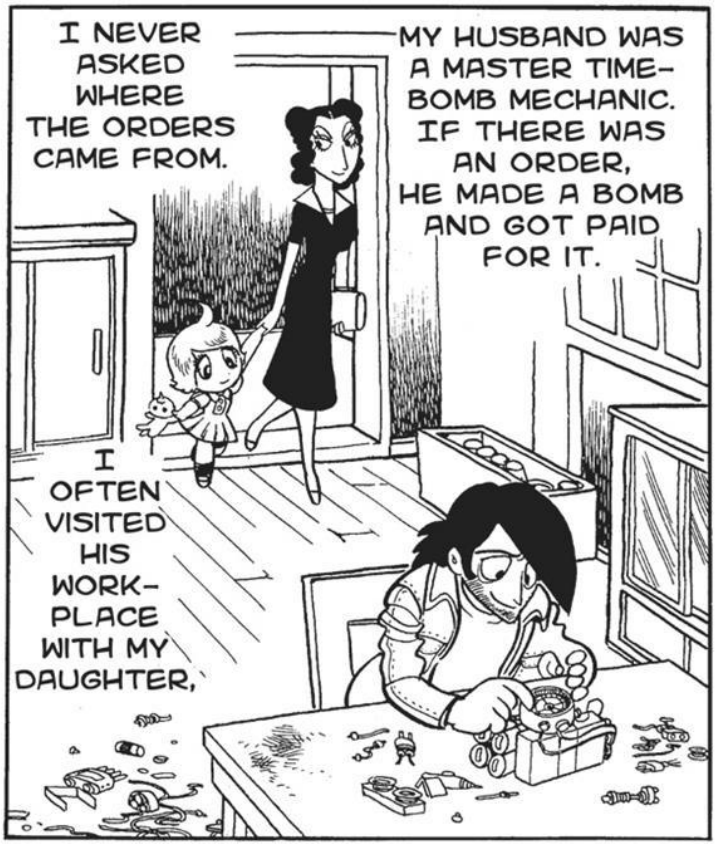
TO DR. BLACK JACK
ブラック・ジャック
先生へ
井之頭 将美
MASAMI INOKASHIRA
RENTAL CO-OP NO. 5
5-12 HONMACHI,
SUGINAMI-KU, TOKYO

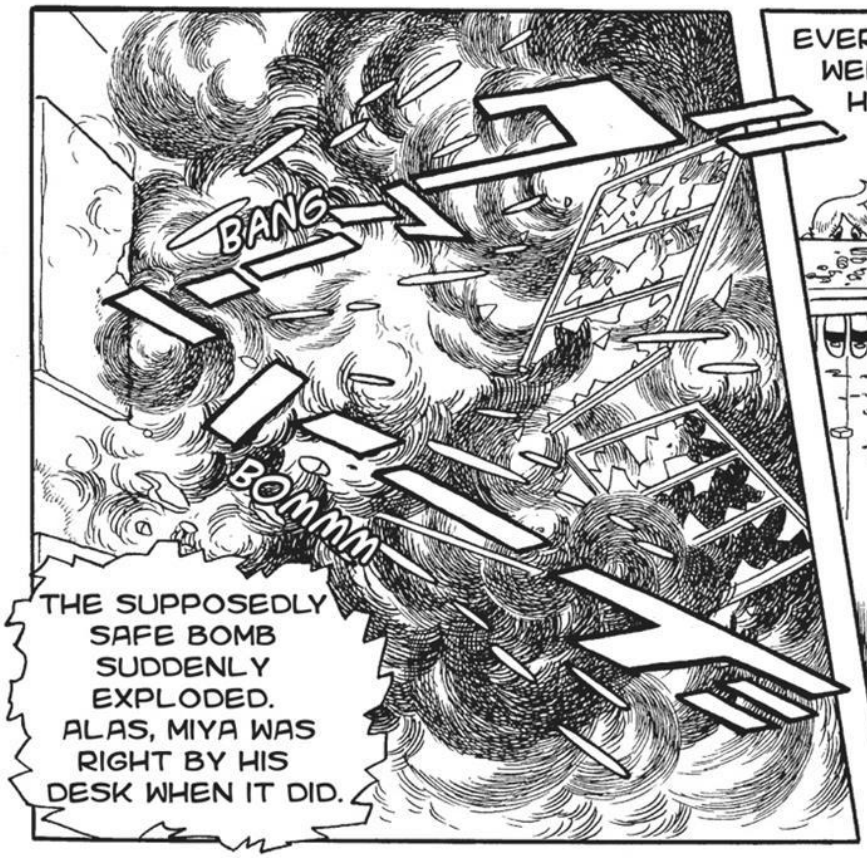

DO YOU
REMEMBER?
YOU MUST!
AS FOR ME,
I WILL NEVER
FORGET—
MY DAUGHTER.


DEAR DR. BLACK JACK:
YOU WOULD KNOW MY NAME.
WE MET ABOUT 4 YEARS AGO.
YOU TRIED TO HELP ME
WITH SOMETHING
BACK THEN.

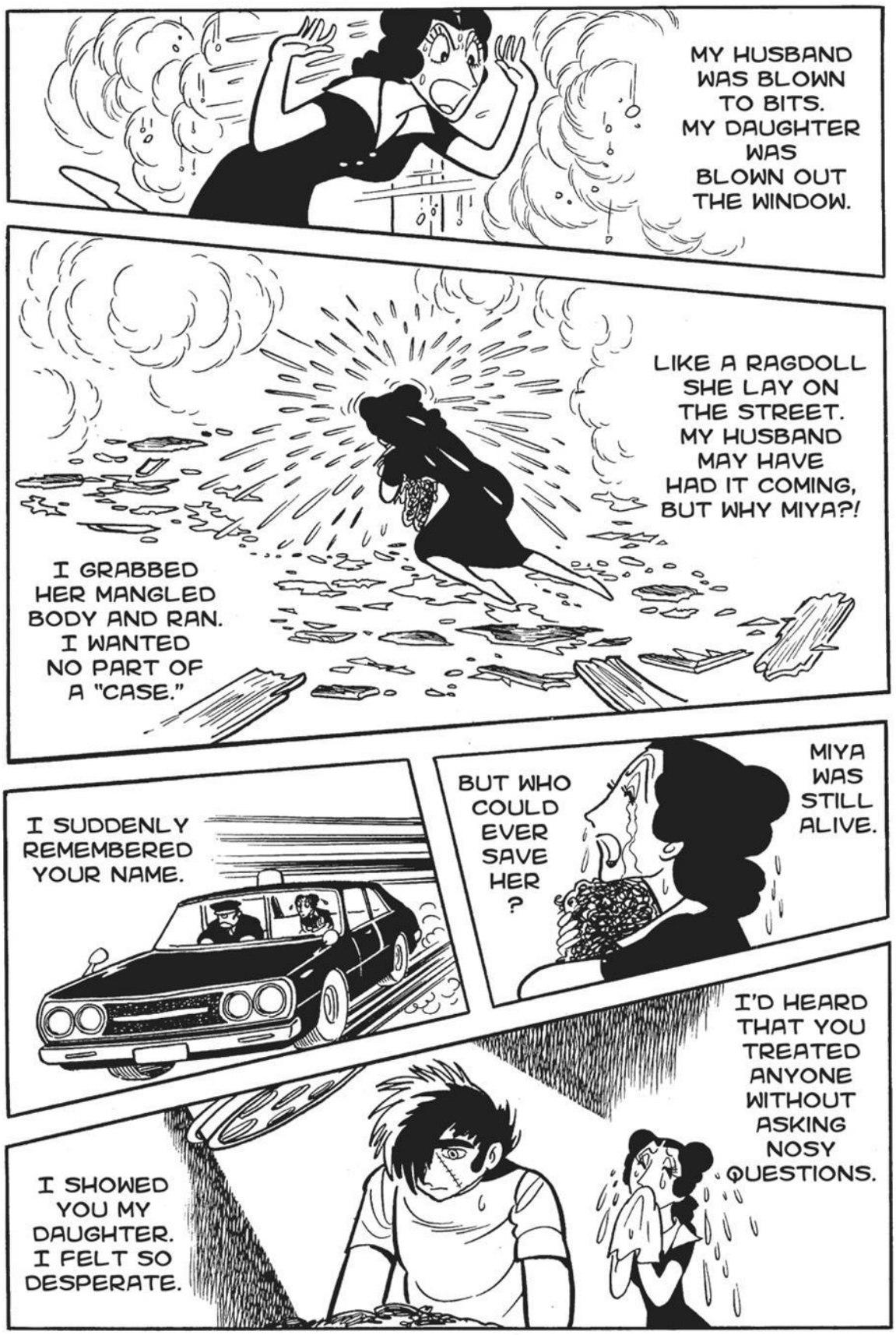

MIYA,

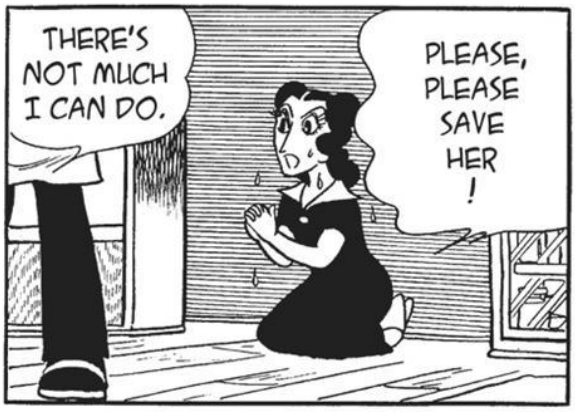
TO ASK FOR MONEY.

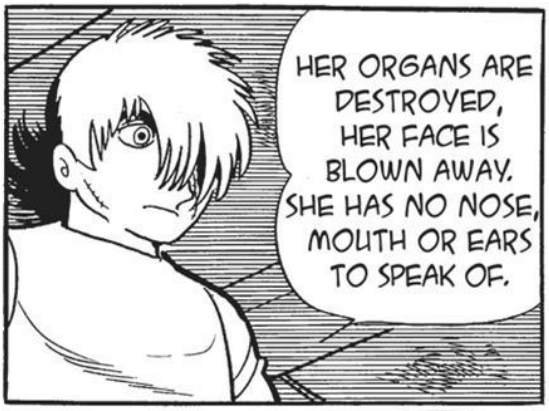

I NEVER ASKED WHERE THE ORDERS CAME FROM.
MY HUSBAND WAS A MASTER TIME-BOMB MECHANIC. IF THERE WAS AN ORDER, HE MADE A BOMB AND GOT PAID FOR IT.
I OFTEN VISITED HIS WORK-PLACE WITH MY DAUGHTER,

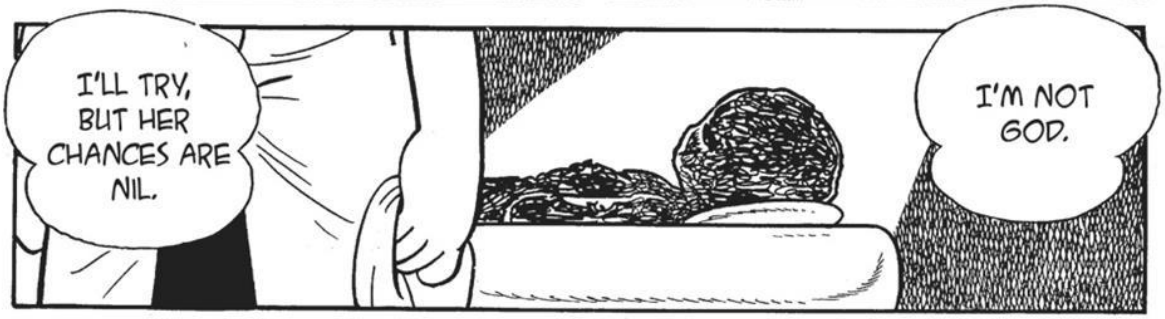

BANG
BOMMM
THE SUPPOSEDLY SAFE BOMB SUDDENLY EXPLODED. ALAS, MIYA WAS RIGHT BY HIS DESK WHEN IT DID.

ONE DAY
EVERYTHING WENT TO HELL.


MY HUSBAND WAS BLOWN TO BITS. MY DAUGHTER WAS BLOWN OUT THE WINDOW.
LIKE A RAGDOLL SHE LAY ON THE STREET. MY HUSBAND MAY HAVE HAD IT COMING, BUT WHY MIYA?!
I GRABBED HER MANGLED BODY AND RAN. I WANTED NO PART OF A "CASE."
I SUDDENLY REMEMBERED YOUR NAME.
BUT WHO COULD EVER SAVE HER ?
MIYA WAS STILL ALIVE.
I'D HEARD THAT YOU TREATED ANYONE WITHOUT ASKING NOSY QUESTIONS.
I SHOWED YOU MY DAUGHTER. I FELT SO DESPERATE.


THERE'S NOT MUCH I CAN DO.
PLEASE, PLEASE SAVE HER !

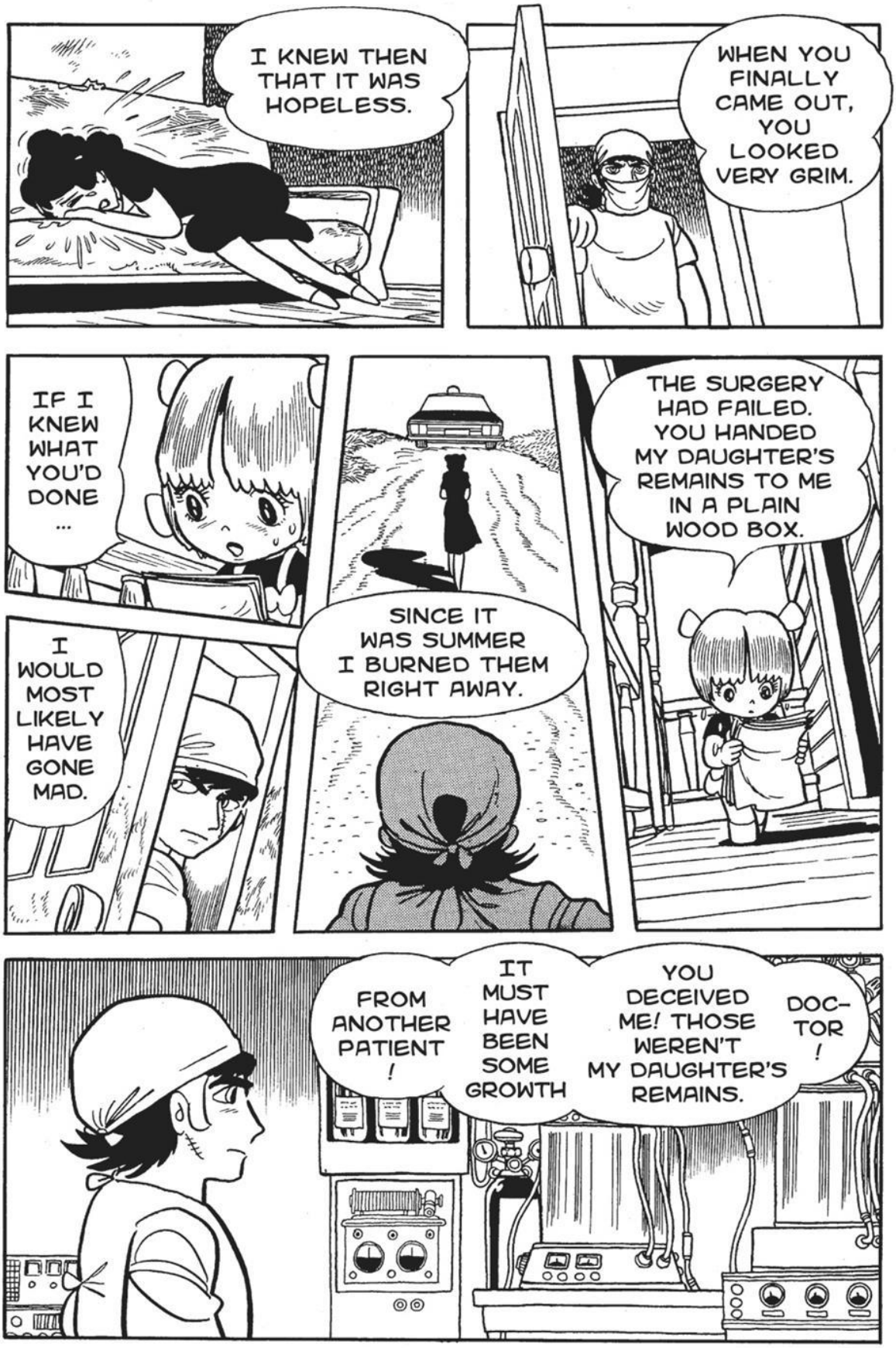

HER ORGANS ARE DESTROYED, HER FACE IS BLOWN AWAY. SHE HAS NO NOSE, MOUTH OR EARS TO SPEAK OF.

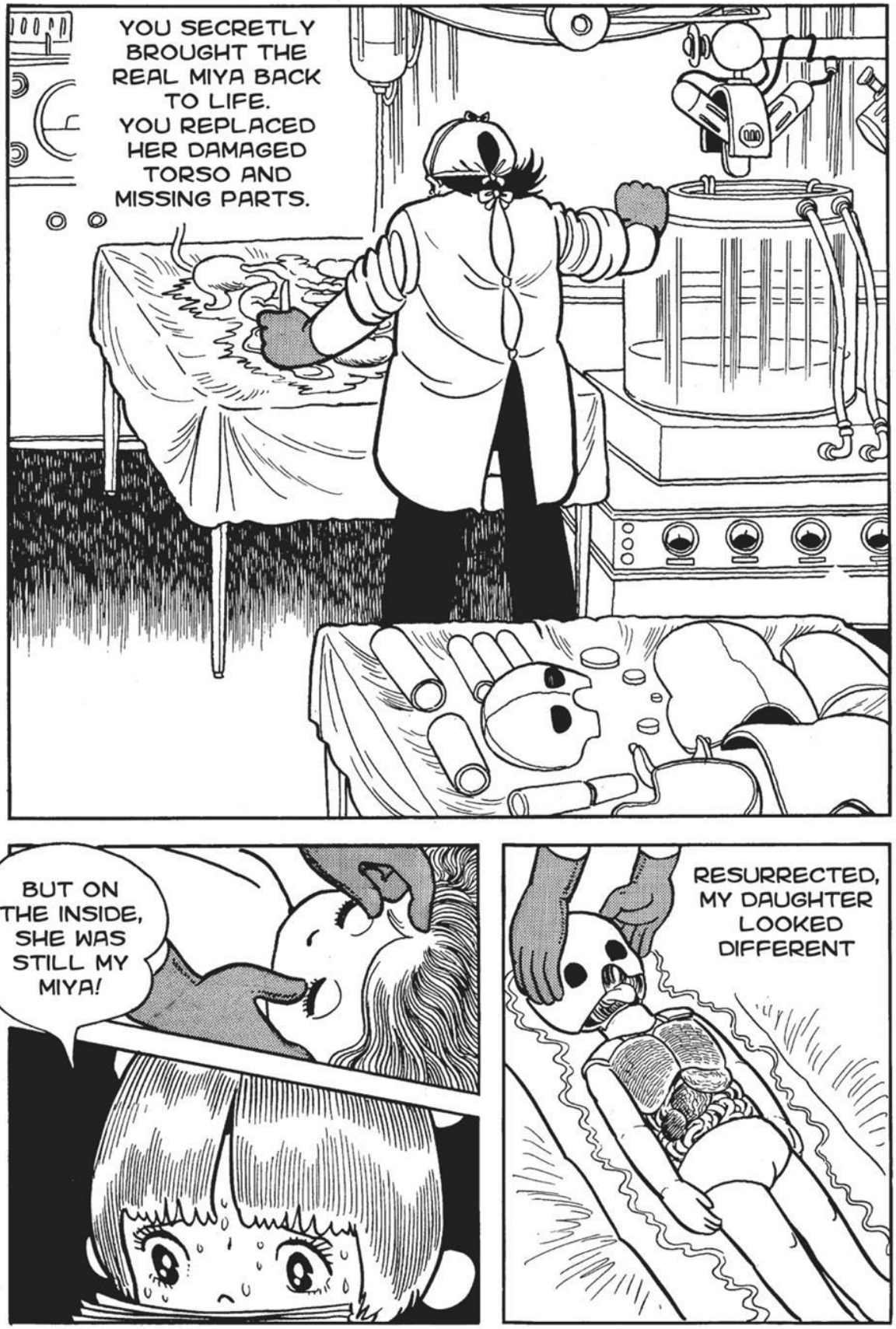

I'LL TRY, BUT HER CHANCES ARE NIL.
I'M NOT GOD.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT GREAT OPERATION YOU PERFORMED UPON HER.

I PRAYED THAT SHE WOULD REVIVE.

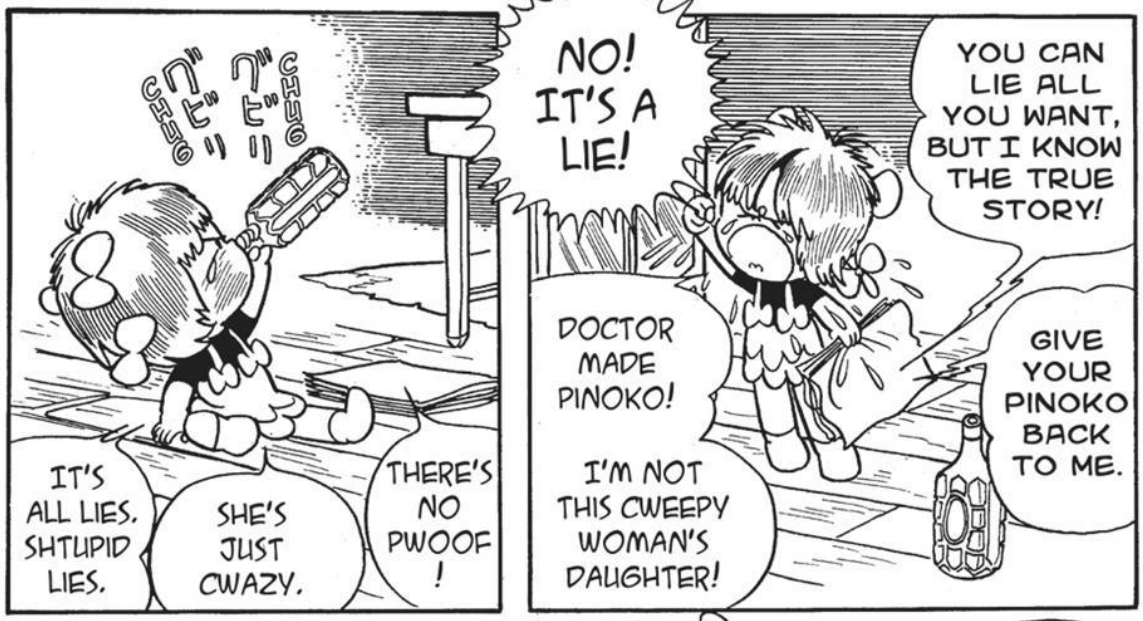
I WAITED, FOR HOURS.
NEED TO PEE...
I GOT THE SHIVERS ...

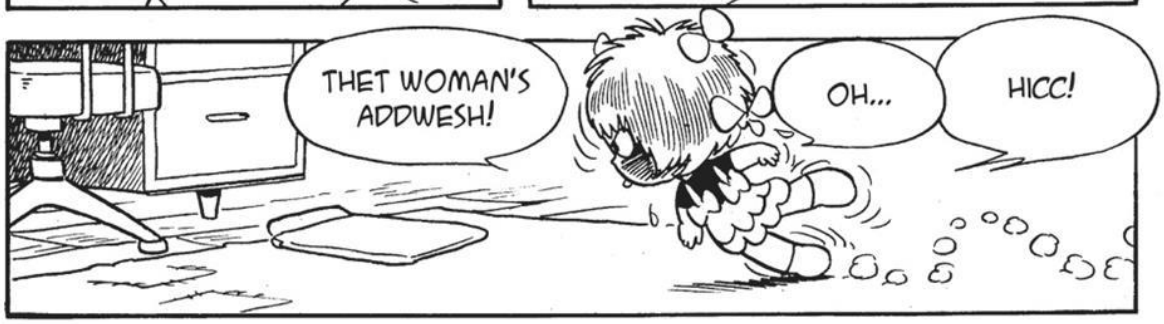

I KNEW THEN THAT IT WAS HOPELESS.
WHEN YOU FINALLY CAME OUT, YOU LOOKED VERY GRIM.
IF I KNEW WHAT YOU'D DONE ...
I WOULD MOST LIKELY HAVE GONE MAD.
SINCE IT WAS SUMMER I BURNED THEM RIGHT AWAY.
THE SURGERY HAD FAILED. YOU HANDED MY DAUGHTER'S REMAINS TO ME IN A PLAIN WOOD BOX.
FROM ANOTHER PATIENT !
IT MUST HAVE BEEN SOME GROWTH
YOU DECEIVED ME! THOSE WEREN'T MY DAUGHTER'S REMAINS.
DOC-TOR !

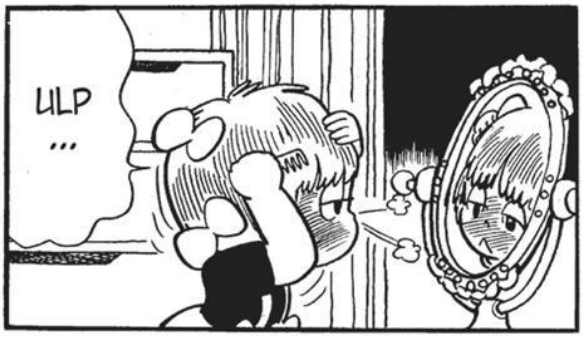

YOU SECRETLY BROUGHT THE REAL MIYA BACK TO LIFE. YOU REPLACED HER DAMAGED TORSO AND MISSING PARTS.
BUT ON THE INSIDE, SHE WAS STILL MY MIYA!
RESURRECTED, MY DAUGHTER LOOKED DIFFERENT

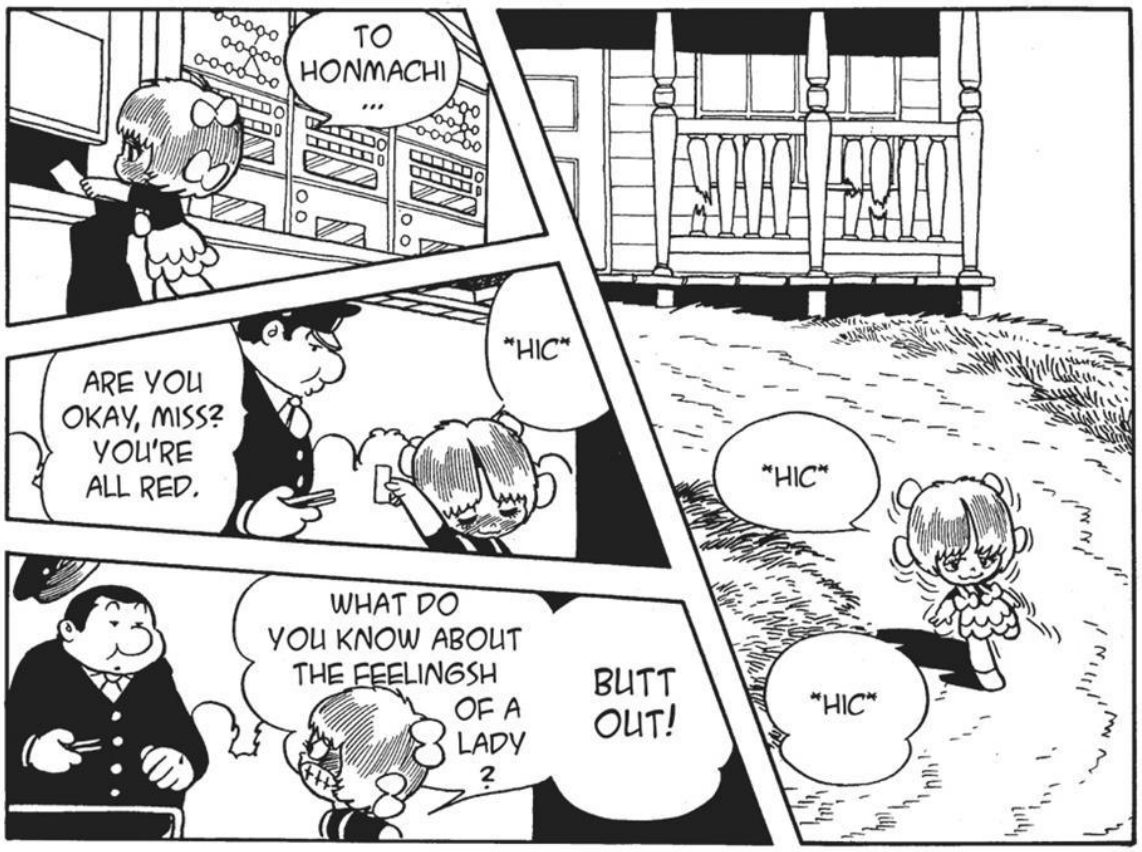
YOU TAUGHT HER THAT SHE USED TO BE A GROWTH.
TAKING ADVANTAGE OF HER LOSS OF MEMORY,
BUT MIYA COULD BE REBORN BECAUSE SHE'D ALWAYS BEEN HUMAN.
BUT IN WHAT WORLD DOES A GROWTH BECOME A HUMAN? WHAT NONSENSE.
I'M REFERRING TO YOUR "DAUGHTER" PINOKO.
DO I HAVE TO SPELL IT OUT?
BLECH!

WELL? THAT'S THE TRUTH, ISN'T IT?
ACK
ACK

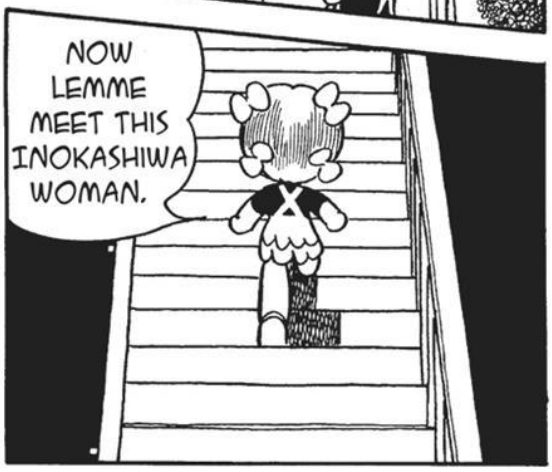

ぐビリ
ぐビリ
IT'S ALL LIES. SHTUPID LIES.
SHE'S JUST CWAZY.
THERE'S NO PWOOF!
NO! IT'S A LIE!
YOU CAN LIE ALL YOU WANT, BUT I KNOW THE TRUE STORY!
DOCTOR MADE PINOKO!
I'M NOT THIS CWEEPY WOMAN'S DAUGHTER!
GIVE YOUR PINOKO BACK TO ME.


THET WOMAN'S ADDWESH!
OH...
HICC!


ULP ...


TO HONMACHI ...
ARE YOU OKAY, MISS? YOU'RE ALL RED.
"HIC"
"HIC"
"HIC"
WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE FEELINGSH OF A LADY ?
BUTT OUT!

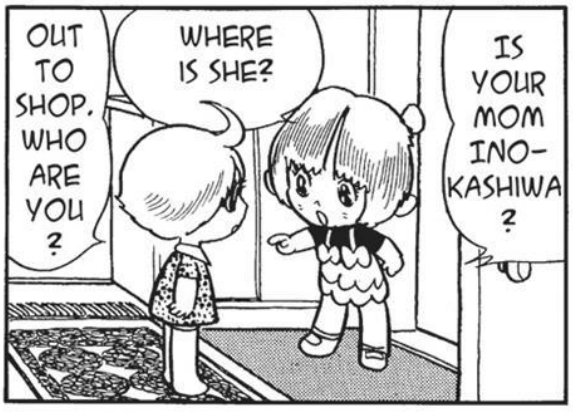
IT'S THIS APARTMENT !


NOW LEMME MEET THIS INOKASHIWA WOMAN.

THE SHO-CALLED PAWENT-CHILD BOND ...?
I FEEL LIKE I'M BEING LED THERE!

井之頭
INOKASHIRA

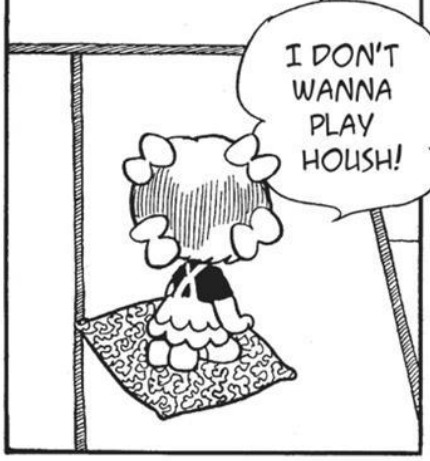
I'M HERE TO SHEE YOUR MOM.
I'LL WAIT HERE.
W-WAIT A SEC!

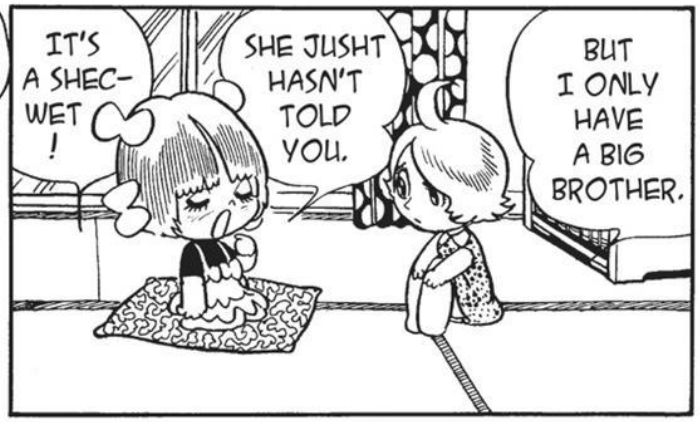

OUT TO SHOP. WHO ARE YOU ?
WHERE IS SHE?
IS YOUR MOM INO-KASHIWA ?

LET'S PLAY !
SISTER... I GET IT. LIKE IN HOUSE?

HICC!
I MIGHT BE YOUR SHISHTER!

SO WHO ARE YOU ?


I DON'T WANNA PLAY HOUSH!

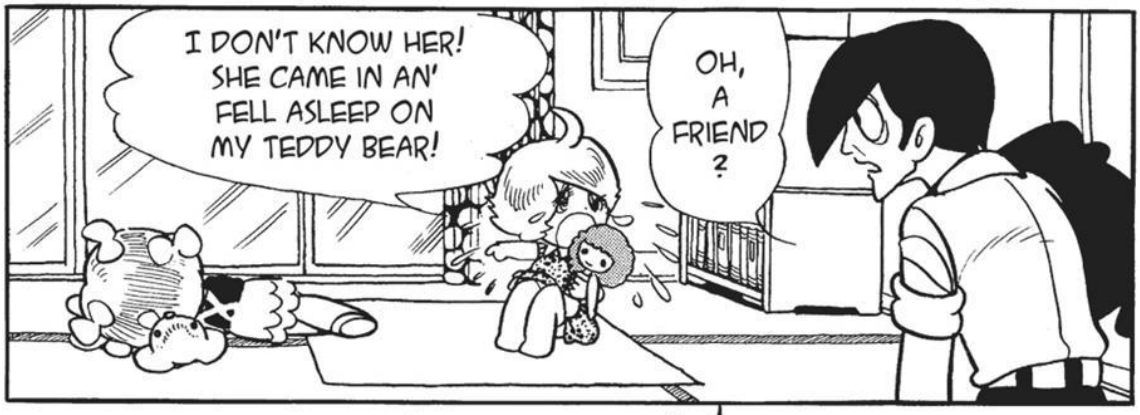

IT'S A SHEC-WET !
SHE JUSHT HASN'T TOLD YOU.
BUT I ONLY HAVE A BIG BROTHER.

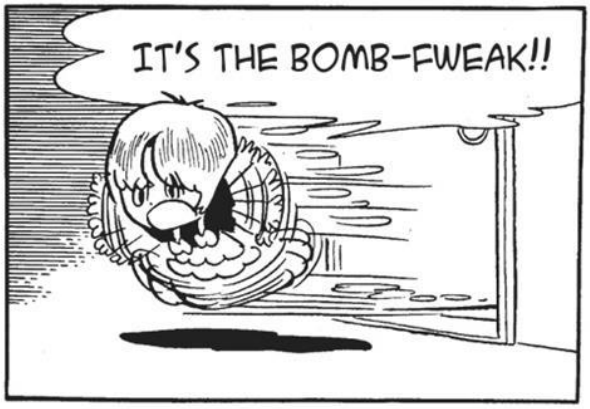
IT'S OUR BIG SISTER! SAY HELLO!
"HIC"
I'M WAY TOO OLD FOR THIS...

YOU CAN'T FALL ASLEEP YET. WE HAVEN'T HAD DINNER.
SIS!

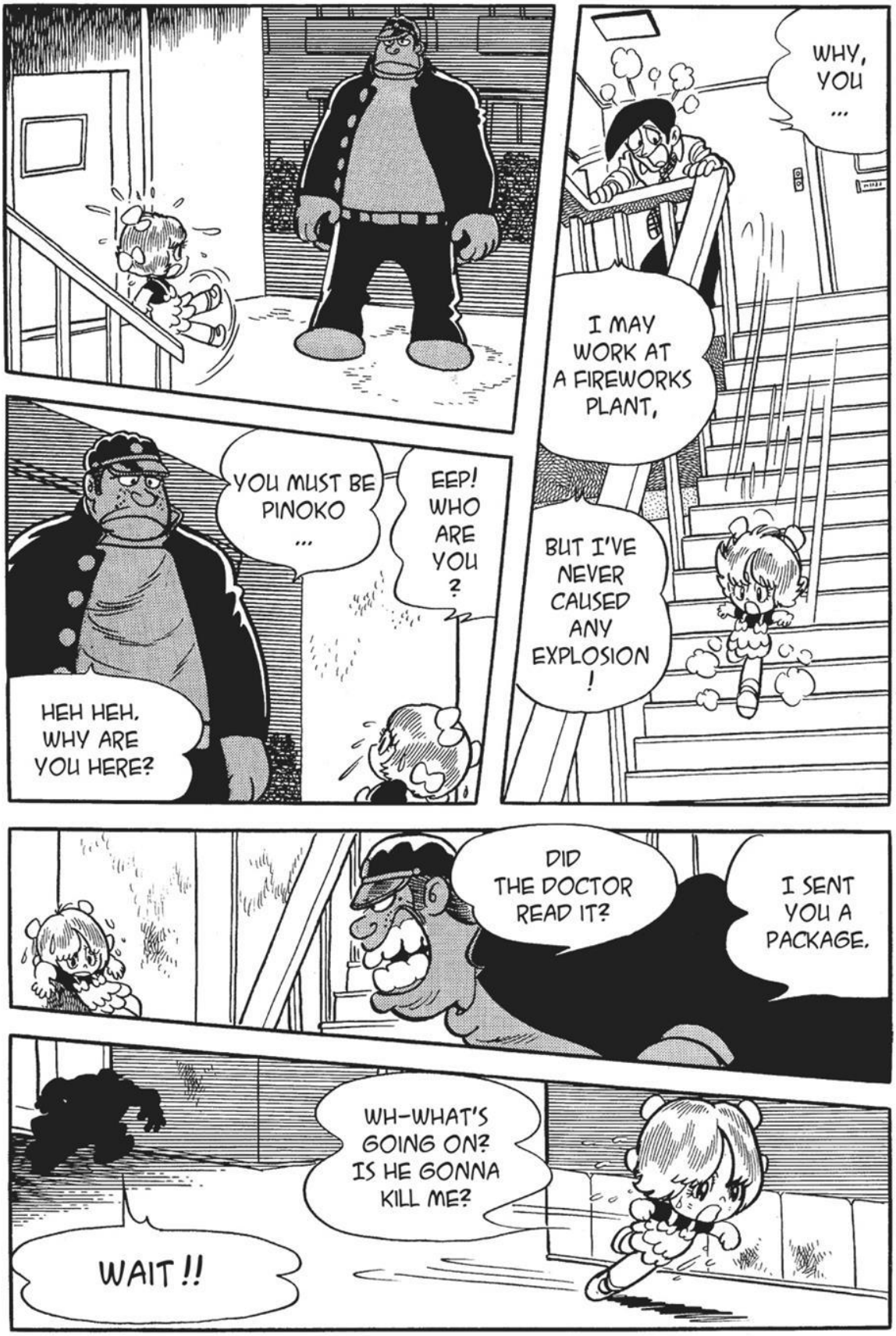
DID YOU JUST GO "URRRP" ?

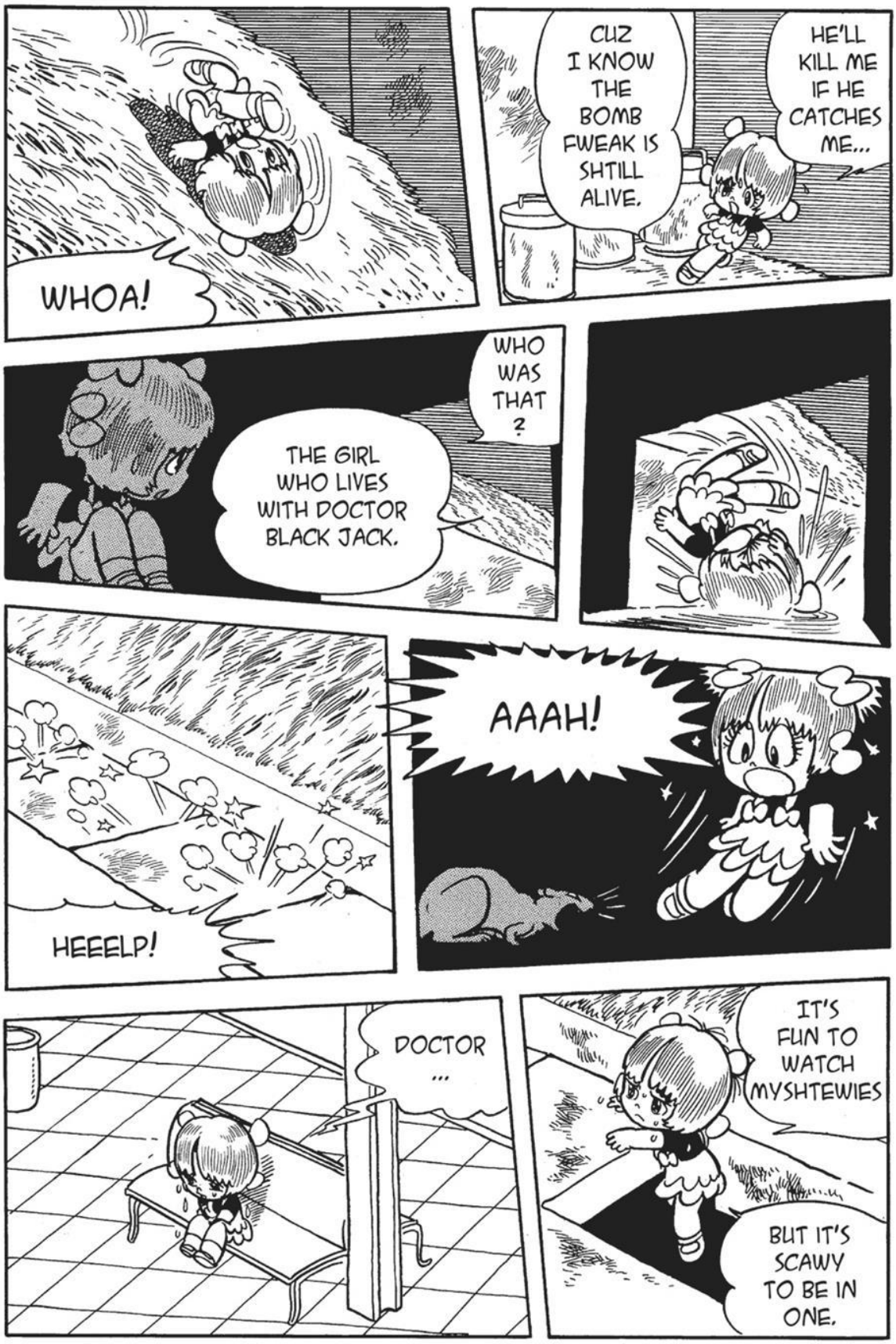
URRRRP

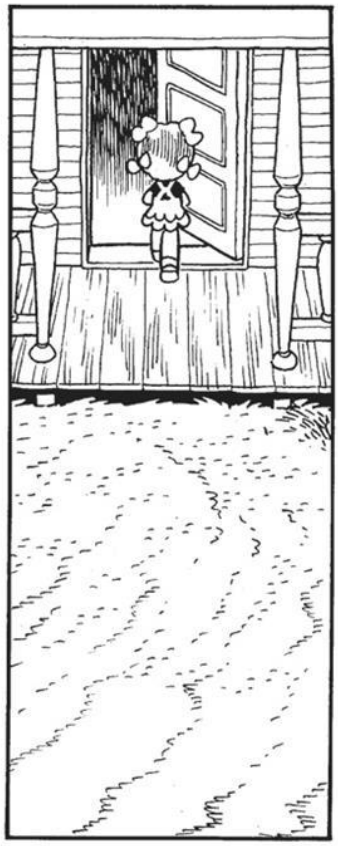

I DON'T KNOW HER! SHE CAME IN AN' FELL ASLEEP ON MY TEDDY BEAR!
OH, A FRIEND ?


IT'S THE BOMB-FWEAK!!

ACK !!
WHAT'S UP WITH YOU? YOU REEK OF LIQUOR!


WHY, YOU ...
I MAY WORK AT A FIREWORKS PLANT,
BUT I'VE NEVER CAUSED ANY EXPLOSION !
YOU MUST BE PINOKO ...
EEP! WHO ARE YOU ?
HEH HEH. WHY ARE YOU HERE?
DID THE DOCTOR READ IT?
I SENT YOU A PACKAGE.
WH-WHAT'S GOING ON? IS HE GONNA KILL ME?
WAIT !!


WHOA!
CUZ I KNOW THE BOMB FWEAK IS SHTILL ALIVE.
HE'LL KILL ME IF HE CATCHES ME...
WHO WAS THAT ?
THE GIRL WHO LIVES WITH DOCTOR BLACK JACK.
HEEELP!
AAAH!
DOCTOR ...
IT'S FUN TO WATCH MYSHTEWIES
BUT IT'S SCAWY TO BE IN ONE.



I DON'T CARE ANYMORE...

...

COME HERE, YOU DESERVE A SPANKING.

YOU LIED TO PINOKO.
WHAT ABOUT YOU, DOCTOR ?

I DON'T CARE IF YOU'RE FAMILY. DON'T SNEAK AROUND READING STUFF !
WHY DID YOU TAKE AND READ SOMETHING IN MY DESK?

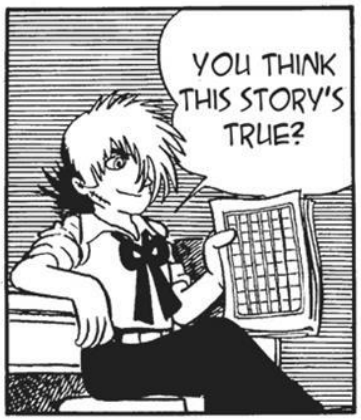
AND YOU'VE JUSHT KEPT ME WITH YOU.
YOU PWETENDED I DIED DUWING SHURGEWY.
PINOKO'S WEAL NAME IS MIYA, WIGHT ?
WHAT ?!

YOUR REAL PARENTS? WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?

WHY DID YOU DO SUCH A FING? PINOKO BELIEVED DOCTOR WAS A GOOD MAN!
I JUST MET MY WEAL PAWENTS !

LIAR! IDIOT! KIDNAPPER !
I KNOW EVEWYFING !!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO LIE ANYMORE !

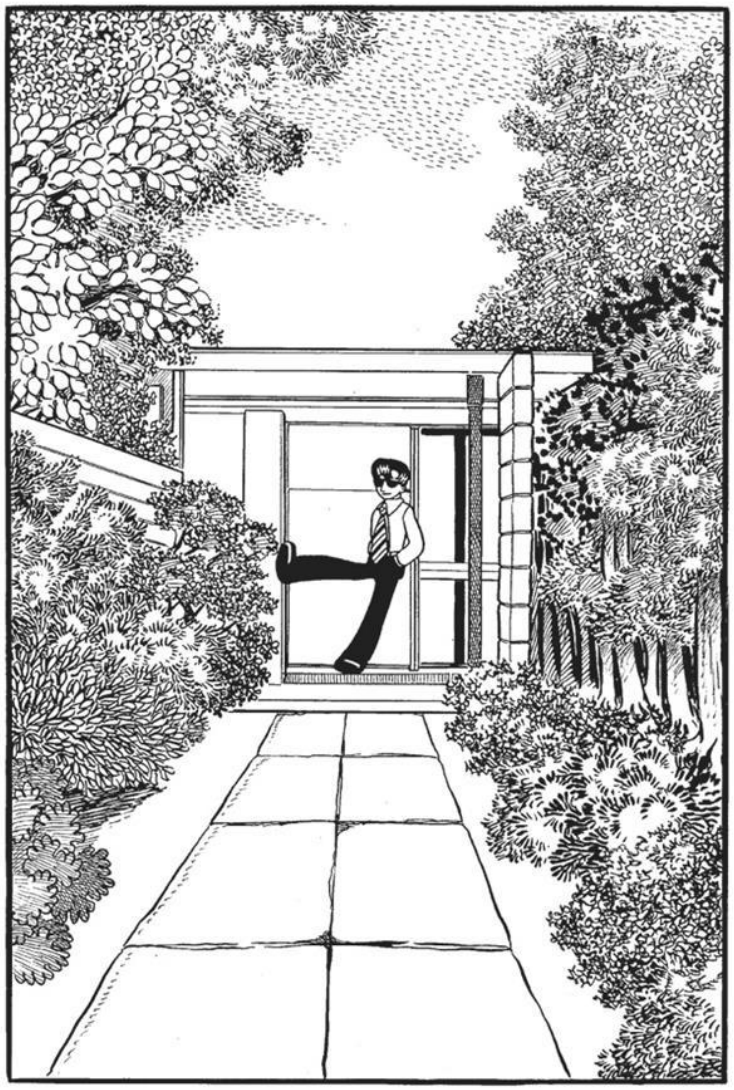
READ THIS. IT CAME TODAY.

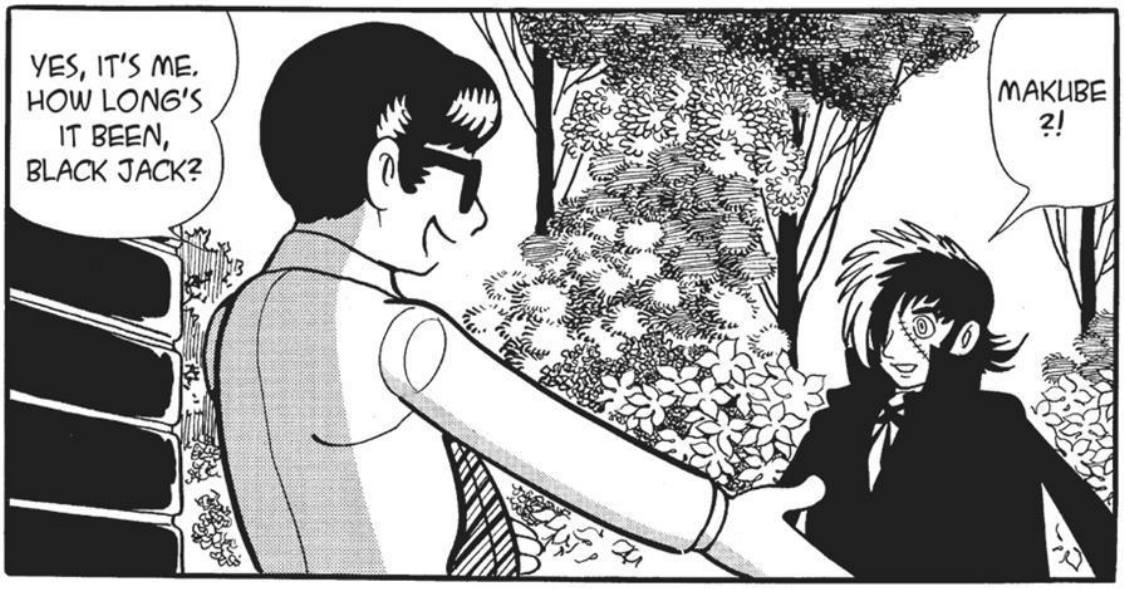

YOU THINK THIS STORY'S TRUE?

NOTE: THE ASPIRING MYSTERY WRITER INOKASHIRA'S FIRST NAME, "MASAMI," GIVEN ON THE FIRST PACKAGE, CAN BE EITHER MALE OR FEMALE. PINOKO (AND THE JAPANESE READER) WOULD EASILY CATCH ON OTHERWISE.

# IMPRINT

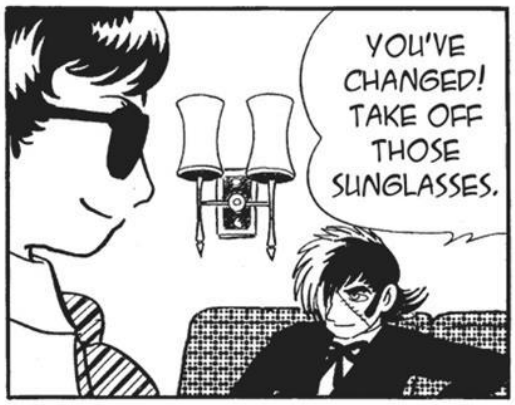
Hello, Black Jack!
How are things?
Can we meet?
2 pm, track 12 of the
Ueno train station.
Makube
I'LL TAKE YOU TO HIM.
ARE YOU DOCTOR BLACK JACK?
WHERE'S MAKUBE? HE TOLD ME TO COME.
DON'T WORRY OVER THE DETAILS.
WHY IS HE ALL THE WAY OUT HERE ?

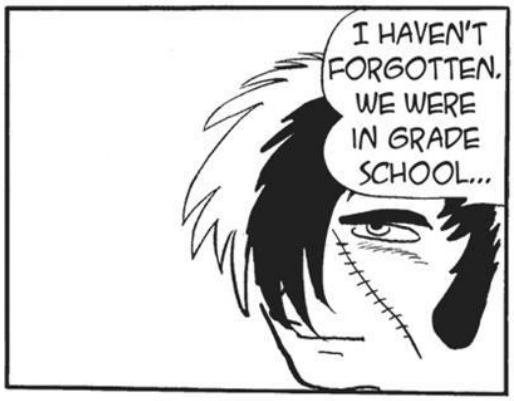


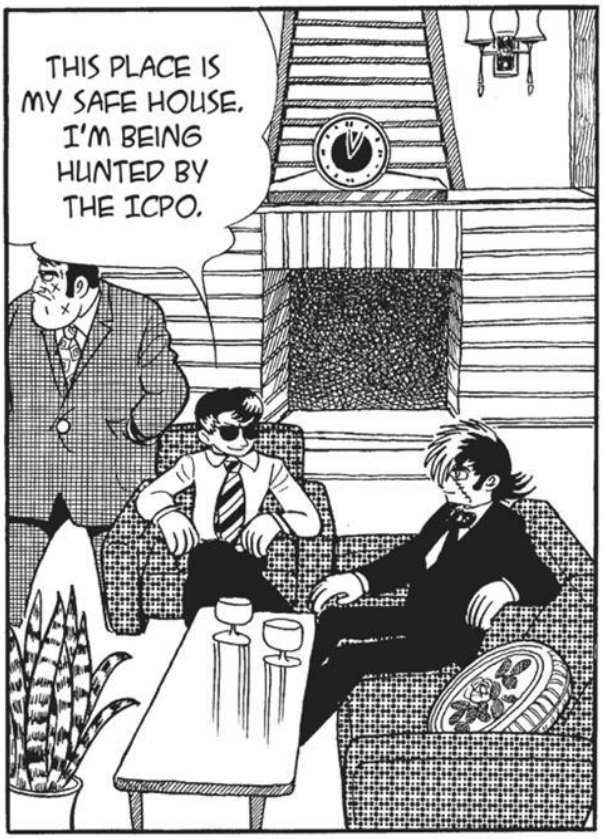

YES, IT'S ME. HOW LONG'S IT BEEN, BLACK JACK?
MAKUBE ?!

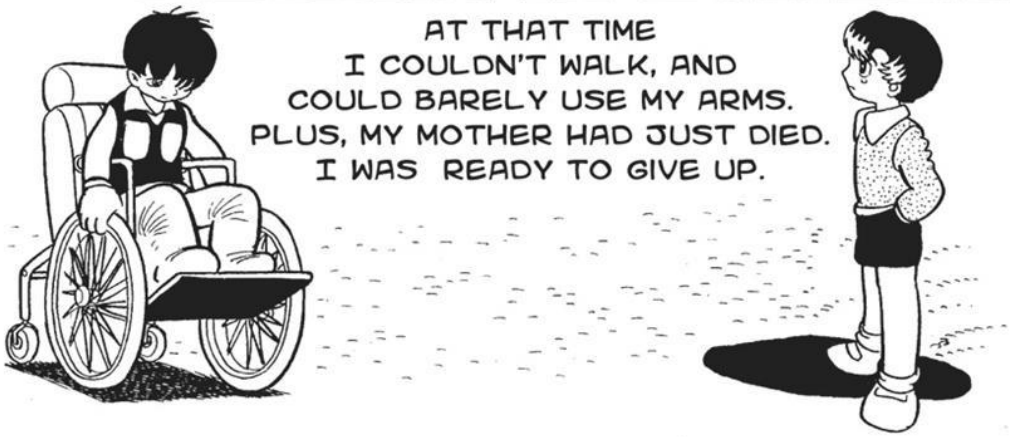
A COUPLE DAYS AGO. LET'S TALK UPSTAIRS.
WHEN DID YOU GET BACK ?

IT FEELS JUST LIKE YESTERDAY.
SEVEN YEARS. SINCE YOU LEFT FOR FRANCE.


YOU'VE CHANGED! TAKE OFF THOSE SUNGLASSES.


I HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN. WE WERE IN GRADE SCHOOL...

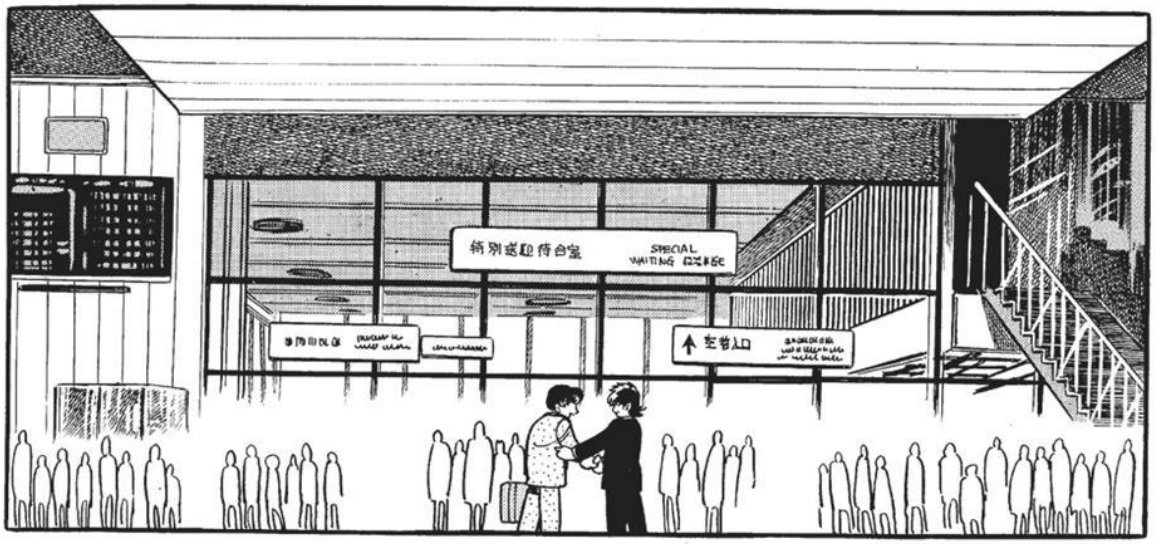

THIS PLACE IS MY SAFE HOUSE. I'M BEING HUNTED BY THE ICPO.


AT THAT TIME I COULDN'T WALK, AND COULD BARELY USE MY ARMS. PLUS, MY MOTHER HAD JUST DIED. I WAS READY TO GIVE UP.

YOU SEEMED LONELY, TOO. YOU LIED ALL THE TIME, AND SO NO ONE TRUSTED YOU.
YOU WERE THE ONE WHO HELPED CHEER ME UP, GOING TO AND FROM SCHOOL WITH ME EVERY DAY.
REMEMBER WHAT YOU SAID WHEN I REGAINED USE OF MY ARMS AND LEGS THANKS TO DR. HONMA?
"ONE DAY YOU'LL BE THE BADDEST SURGEON ON EARTH. YOU'LL GET YOUR SKILLS FROM DR. HONMA AND YOUR CHARACTER FROM ME."
TALKING ABOUT OUR DREAMS ALL DAY IN AN EMPTY PARENTLESS HOUSE.
YOU NEVER DID LIE TO ME OR BETRAY MY TRUST.
BUT SOME-HOW WE CON-NECTED.
IN FACT, WE CONSOLED EACH OTHER'S LONELINESS,

I GOT INTO MED SCHOOL
AND YOU TOOK THE CHANCE OF
A LIFETIME TO GO TO FRANCE.

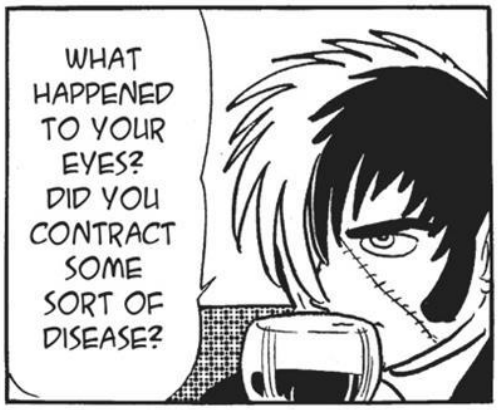
AT THE AIRPORT
YOU TOLD ME THAT
ONE DAY YOU'D COME TO SEE
DOCTOR BLACK JACK
AND THAT I WAS TO GIVE YOU WHATEVER
TREATMENT YOU MIGHT NEED THEN.

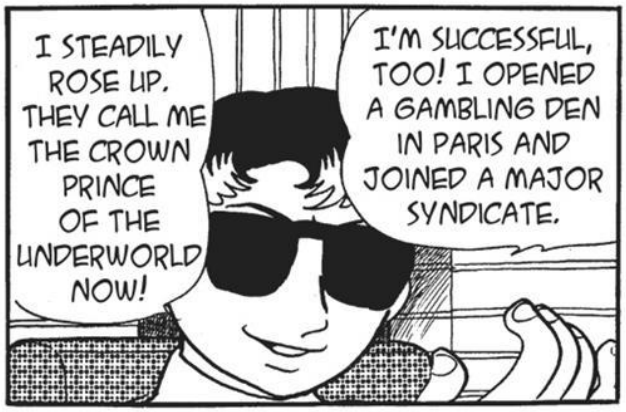


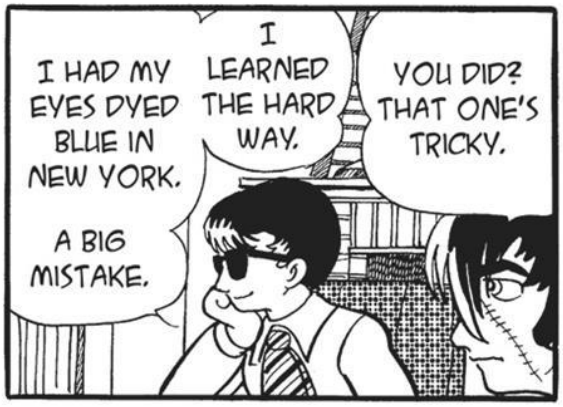
YOU BECAME A DOCTOR JUST LIKE I SAID.

YES INDEED,

I REMEMBER ALL THAT, CLEAR AS DAY.


WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR EYES? DID YOU CONTRACT SOME SORT OF DISEASE?


I STEADILY ROSE UP. THEY CALL ME THE CROWN PRINCE OF THE UNDERWORLD NOW!
I'M SUCCESSFUL, TOO! I OPENED A GAMBLING DEN IN PARIS AND JOINED A MAJOR SYNDICATE.


I HAD MY EYES DYED BLUE IN NEW YORK.
A BIG MISTAKE.
I LEARNED THE HARD WAY.
YOU DID? THAT ONE'S TRICKY.

MY EYES ARE RUINED. I CAN BARELY SEE.

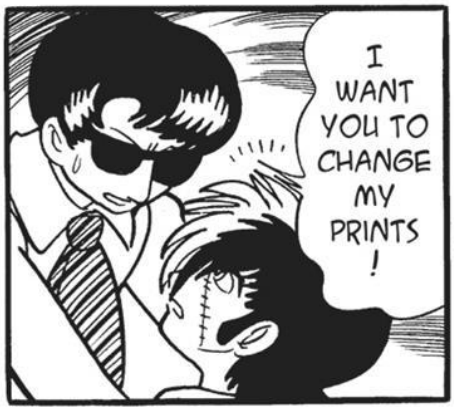
WELL, I CHANGED MY APPEARANCE MANY TIMES ON THE RUN. I WAS A REDHEAD, A BLOND. I TRIED CHANGING MY EYE COLOR TOO.

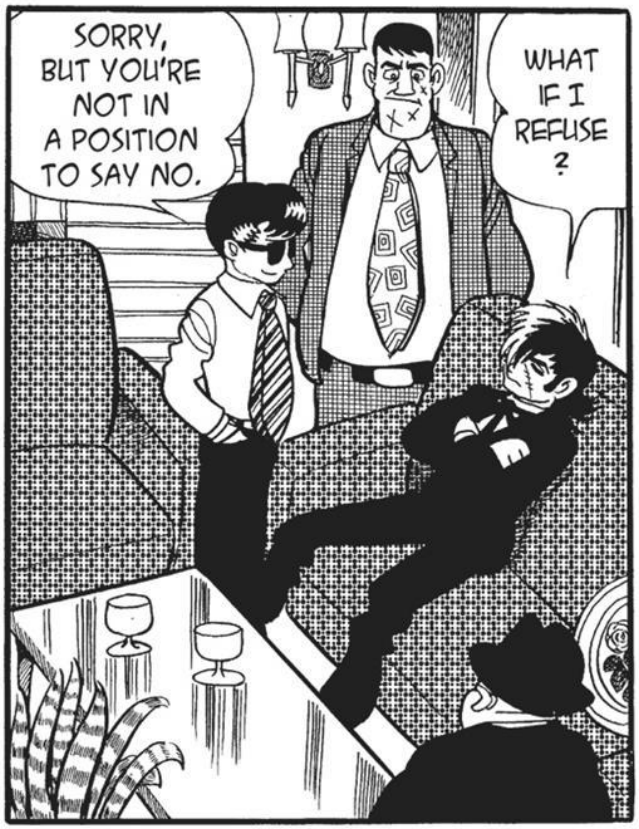
TO CLEAN UP AFTER SOME QUACK, COULD I?
I COULDN'T POSSIBLY ASK THE GREAT DR. BLACK JACK

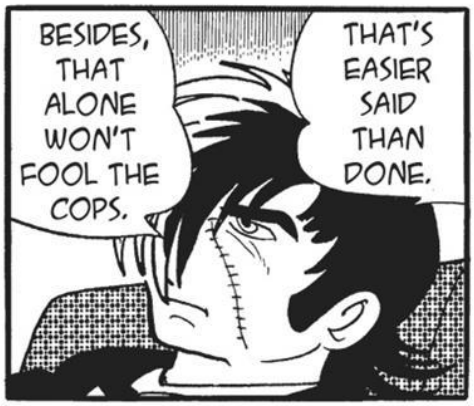
YOU WANT ME TO FIX YOUR EYES ?
SO, WHY AM I HERE ?

THE HARDEST THING TO CHANGE ARE MY FINGER-PRINTS. PLEASE, HELP ME.

PRINTS ?


I WANT YOU TO CHANGE MY PRINTS !

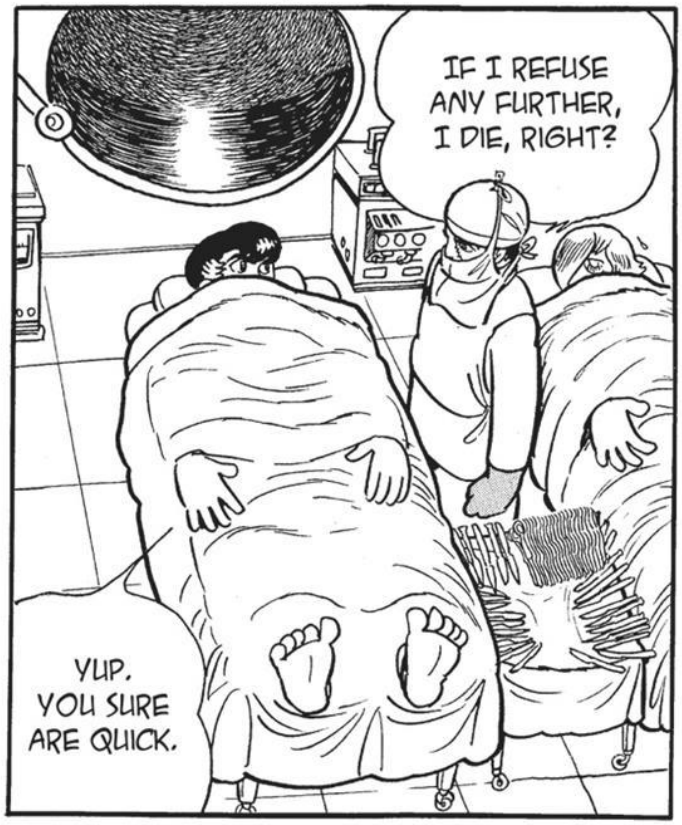

SORRY, BUT YOU'RE NOT IN A POSITION TO SAY NO.
WHAT IF I REFUSE ?


BESIDES, THAT ALONE WON'T FOOL THE COPS.
THAT'S EASIER SAID THAN DONE.

BUT NO ONE ELSE CAN DO MY PRINTS!
SURE, I'LL CHANGE MY FACE, VOICE, HEIGHT, AND WEIGHT, TOO.

FINE, COME TO MY HOUSE.
NO! YOU'LL OPERATE HERE.

...
YOU SEWED ON A PICK-POCKET'S FINGERS, RIGHT?
IF YOU CAN'T CHANGE MY PRINTS, GIVE ME NEW FINGERS.

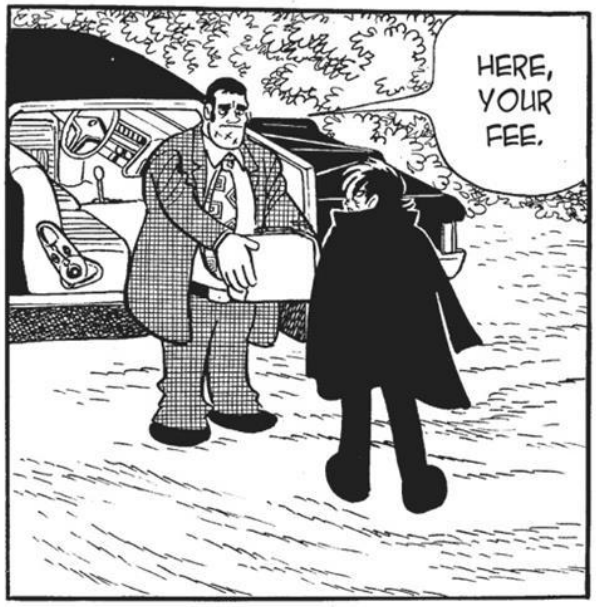

IF I REFUSE ANY FURTHER, I DIE, RIGHT?
YUP. YOU SURE ARE QUICK.

I HAVE EVERYTHING YOU NEED. I EVEN BROUGHT MY NEW FINGERS.

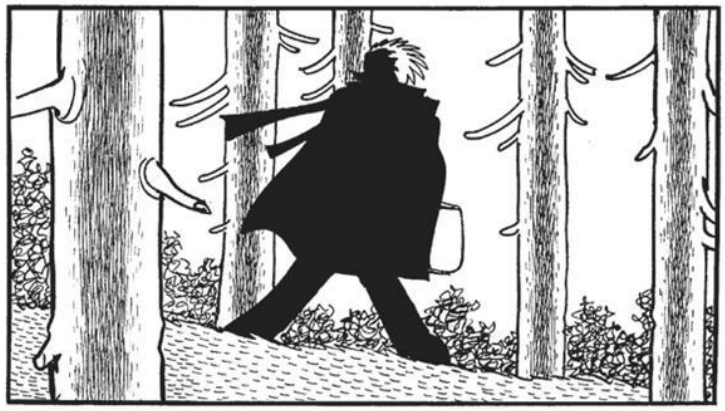
PIERRE!
THAT'D BE YOU!

GIMME A CIGARETTE.
LIGHT IT.
IDIOT! WHO SMOKES DURING SURGERY?
THERE ARE TEN, YOU KNOW. TAKES A WHILE.
FEEL ANY-THING ?
N-NO, I DON'T... HURRY AND CUT 'EM OFF.

TAKE HIM HOME!


HERE, YOUR FEE.

I TRUST I WILL BE. THANKS.
YOU CAN TAKE OFF THE BANDAGES AFTER A MONTH. I THINK YOU'LL BE FINE.



IS THIS MONEY SAFE?
CAN I REALLY USE IT ?

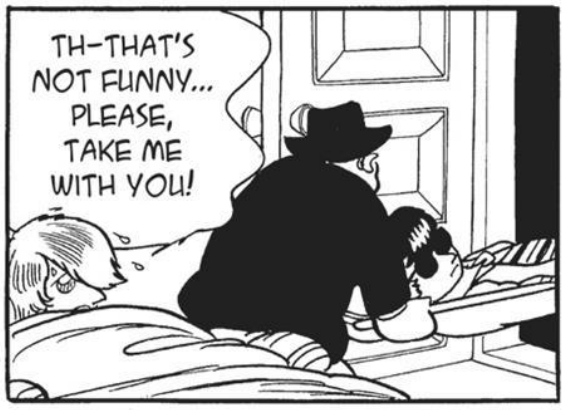
KA-BLAM

D... DAMN IT...
A TIME BOMB...
BLACK JACK... WHAT A DOCTOR.
NOW I CAN BECOME A TOTAL STRANGER.
MERCI
I TOOK HIM HOME.

THEN REST HERE UNTIL YOU'RE ALL BETTER, PIERRE.
ARE YOU SERIOUS? WE JUST HAD SURGERY.

GET THE CAR READY!
LET'S MOVE OUT. WE CAN'T STAY HERE LONG.

SURE, HE'LL BE RIGHT BACK WITH THE STRETCHER.

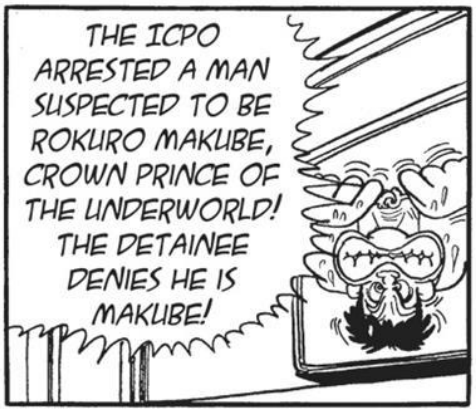

TH-THAT'S NOT FUNNY... PLEASE, TAKE ME WITH YOU!

BESIDES, HE WAS ITCHING TO TELL THE ICPO I WAS BACK IN JAPAN.

OKAY, BURN IT DOWN.

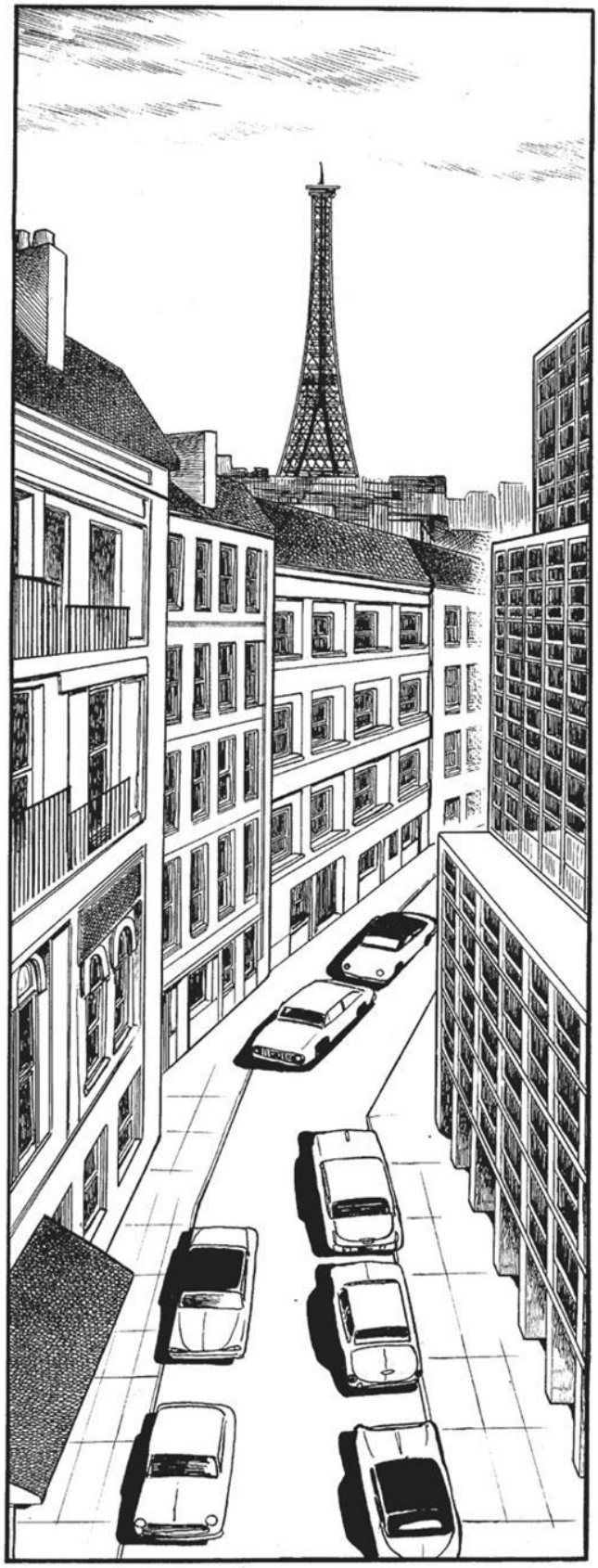
YEAH, WITH MY PRINTS. I CAN'T LET HIM LIVE.
BUT HE'S STILL INSIDE ...

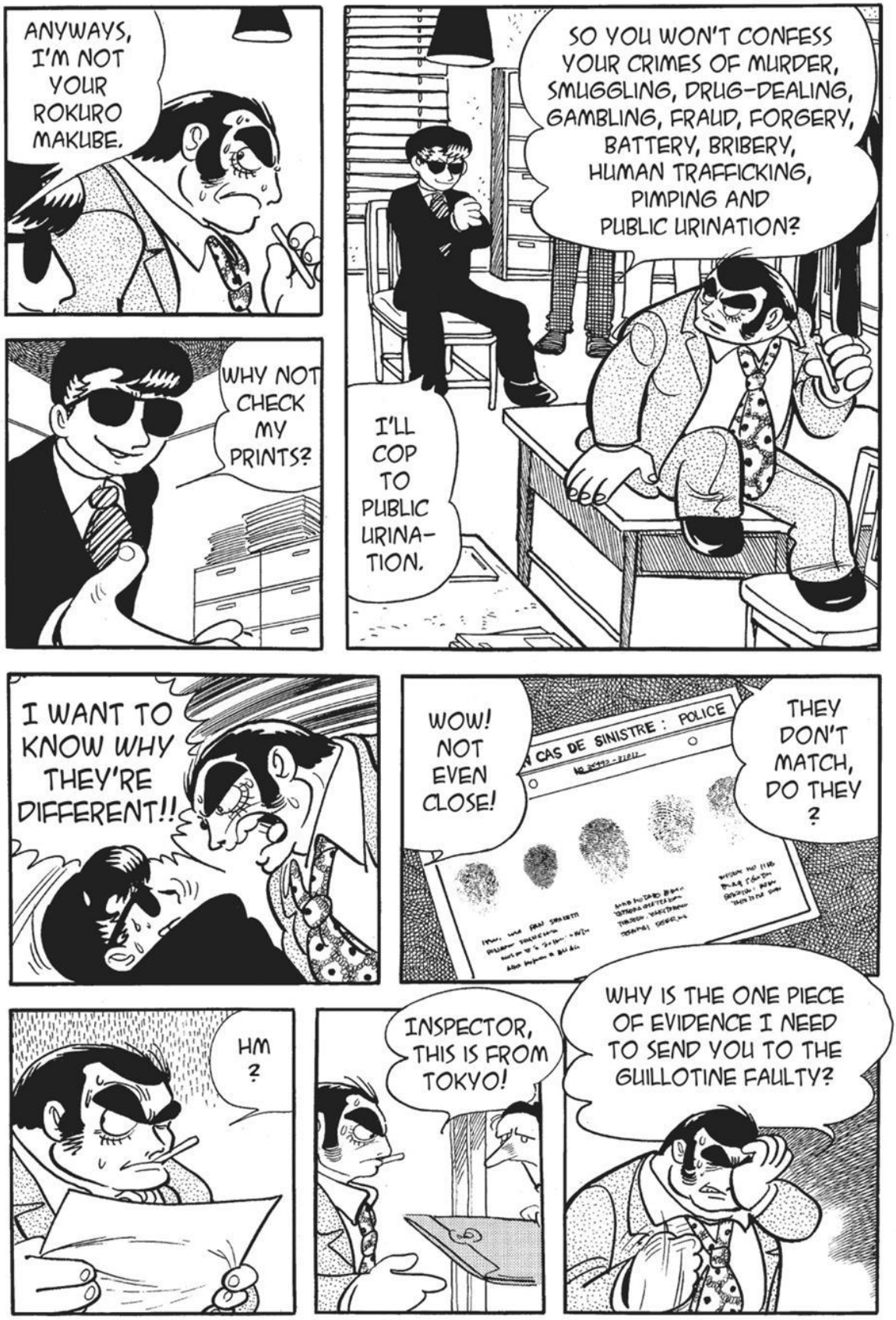
Préfecture de
Police de Paris


THE ICPO ARRESTED A MAN SUSPECTED TO BE ROKURO MAKUBE, CROWN PRINCE OF THE UNDERWORLD! THE DETAINEE DENIES HE IS MAKUBE!

SHOOM
ミーマパッ!

HOW MANY TIMES ARE YOU GOING TO MAKE ME SAY IT?




ANYWAYS, I'M NOT YOUR ROKURO MAKUBE.
SO YOU WON'T CONFESS YOUR CRIMES OF MURDER, SMUGGLING, DRUG-DEALING, GAMBLING, FRAUD, FORGERY, BATTERY, BRIBERY, HUMAN TRAFFICKING, PIMPING AND PUBLIC URINATION?
WHY NOT CHECK MY PRINTS?
I'LL COP TO PUBLIC URINA-TION.
I WANT TO KNOW WHY THEY'RE DIFFERENT!!
WOW! NOT EVEN CLOSE!
CAS DE SINISTRE : POLICE
THEY DON'T MATCH, DO THEY ?
HM ?
INSPECTOR, THIS IS FROM TOKYO!
WHY IS THE ONE PIECE OF EVIDENCE I NEED TO SEND YOU TO THE GUILLOTINE FAULTY?

I WON-DER.
THIS IS YOU!
YOU UNDEWENT PLASTIC SURGERY MULTIPLE TIMES IN YOUR ATTEMPT TO ELUDE US.
THAT THERE IS A PHOTO OF ROKURO MAKUBE AS A CHILD. IT LOOKS LIKE YOU.
YOU ARE HIM...
YOU CHANGED YOUR PRINTS TOO!
WHICH MEANS...
YOU MAKE ME LAUGH!
IF IT WAS SO EASY, EVERY CRIMINAL WOULD DO IT!
HOW COULD ANYONE CHANGE THEIR PRINTS JUST LIKE THAT?
LISTEN TO YOURSELF, INSPECTOR!

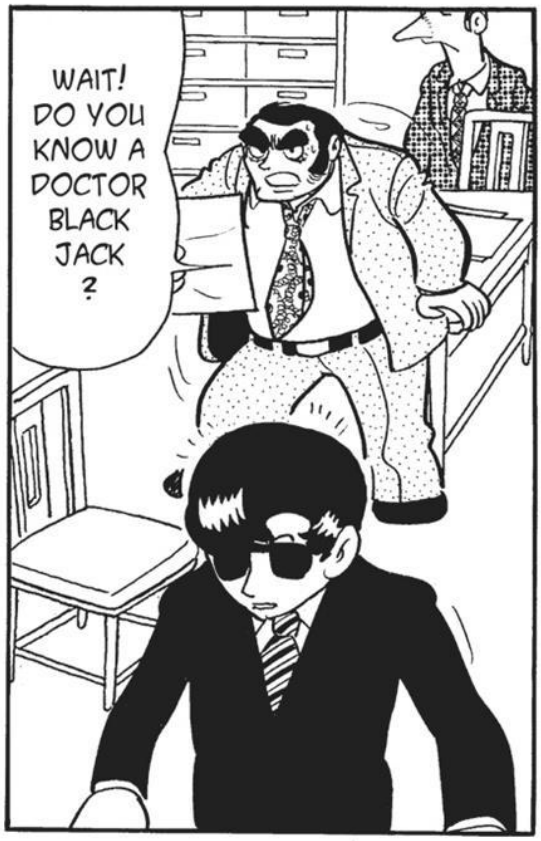
THEY CAN'T DO IT.
I DID ASK.

SHUT UP!

DON'T BELIEVE ME? WHY NOT ASK EVERY SURGEON IN PARIS ?

CAN I GO HOME NOW ?
I'M NOT ROKURO MAKUBE, NO MATTER WHAT ANYONE SAYS.

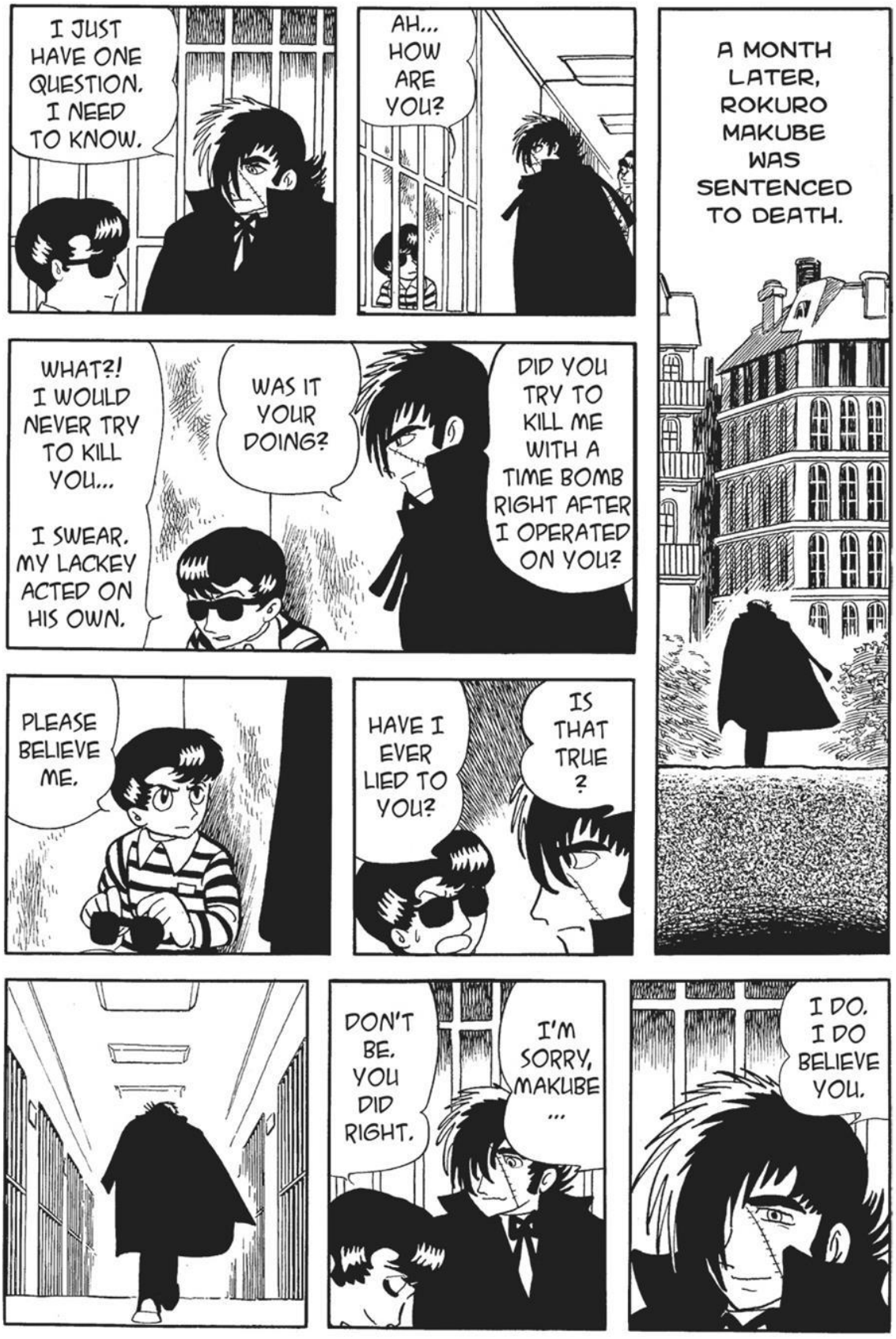
THESE ARE MY REAL FINGERS.
SEE? YOU MADE A FOOL OUT OF YOURSELF.


WAIT! DO YOU KNOW A DOCTOR BLACK JACK ?

SCRAM, YOU JERK ...

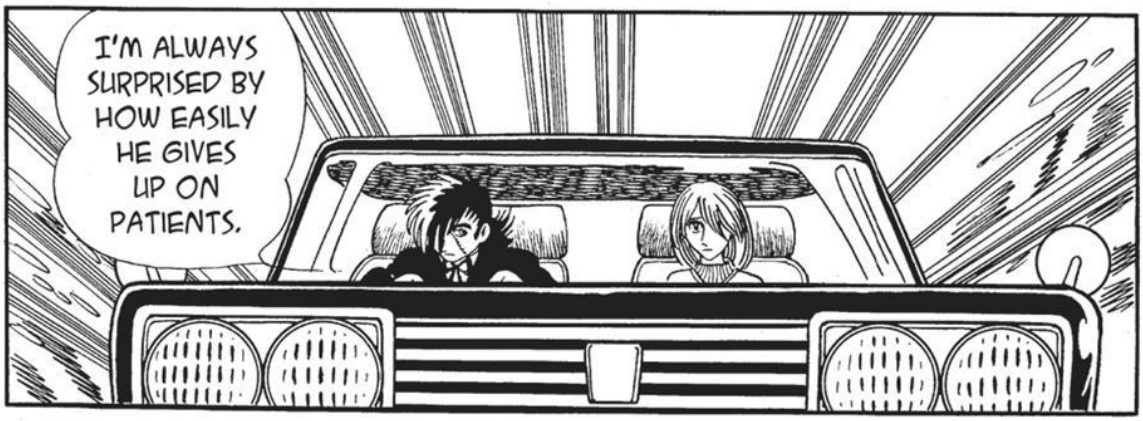
I'VE HAD ENOUGH.
INSPECTOR, NEW INFO.
NOTHING WILL WORK.

SO HE REPLACED YOUR VERY FINGERS!
HE'LL BE MY WIT-NESS.
HE SAYS HE CAN PROVE YOU'RE MAKUBE!
NEVER HEARD OF HIM.
NO, I DON'T.
I'VE NEVER HEARD OF HIM AND I'M FED UP WITH THIS!
DOES IT LOOK LIKE THEY'VE BEEN REPLACED? YOU THINK SUCH A SURGERY IS POSSIBLE?
INSPECTOR, LOOK AT THESE FINGERS.
WHAT WILL YOU DO IF
YOU'RE JUST MESSING WITH ME.
N... NO!
THERE'S NO SUCH THING?
TIME FOR A VISIT TO THE DOCTOR.
I'LL RESIGN. THIS IS A GAMBLE.
HERE'S WHAT HE SAYS:
"AS A SIGN OF FRIENDSHIP, WHEN I OPERATED, I INSCRIBED THE LETTERS 'BJ' IN PERMANENT INK ON HIS FINGER BONES."
LET'S CUT ONE OF YOUR FINGERS OPEN AND HAVE A LOOK, SHALL WE?

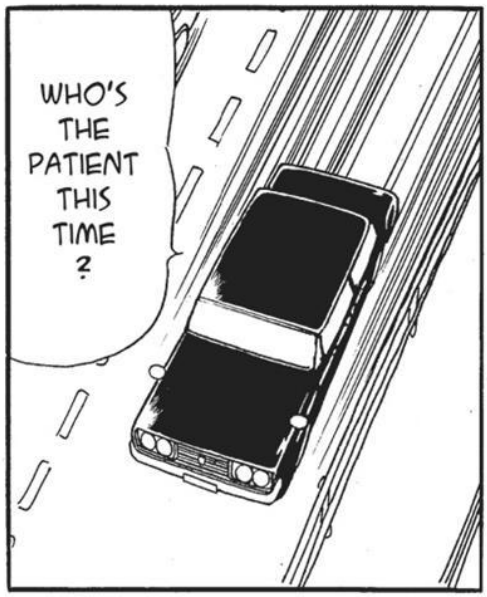

I JUST HAVE ONE QUESTION. I NEED TO KNOW.
AH... HOW ARE YOU?
A MONTH LATER, ROKURO MAKUBE WAS SENTENCED TO DEATH.
WHAT?! I WOULD NEVER TRY TO KILL YOU...
I SWEAR. MY LACKEY ACTED ON HIS OWN.
WAS IT YOUR DOING?
DID YOU TRY TO KILL ME WITH A TIME BOMB RIGHT AFTER I OPERATED ON YOU?
PLEASE BELIEVE ME.
HAVE I EVER LIED TO YOU?
IS THAT TRUE ?
DON'T BE. YOU DID RIGHT.
I'M SORRY, MAKUBE ...
I DO. I DO BELIEVE YOU.

# 99% WATER

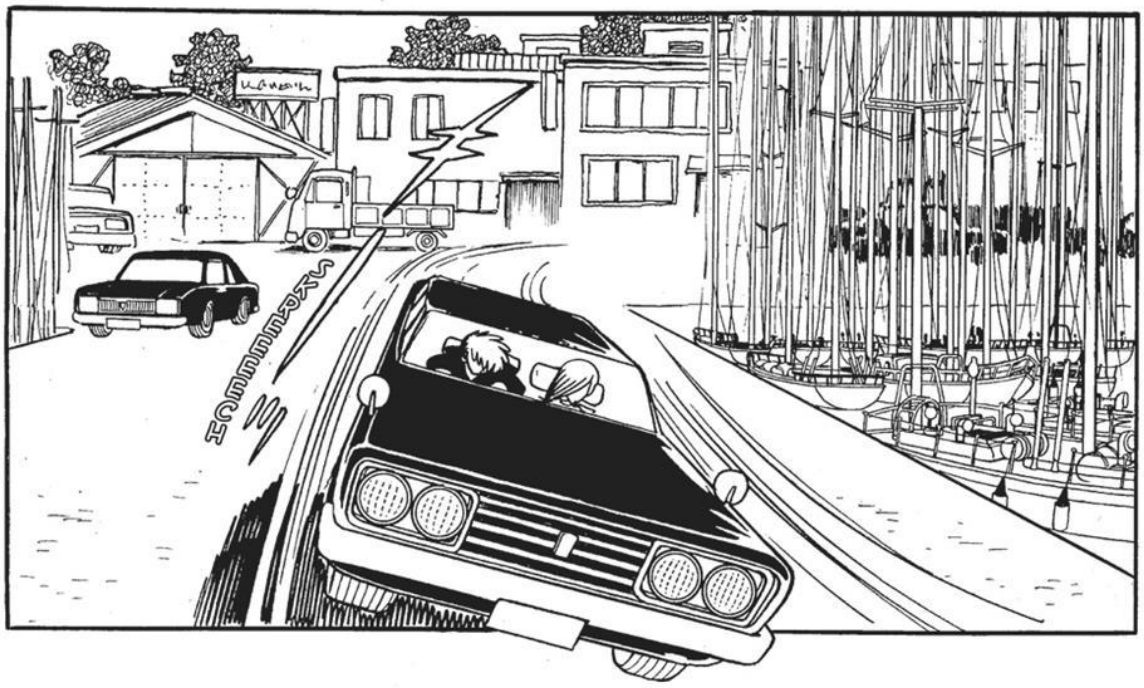
UHM, HAVE WE MET?
I'M SORRY ABOUT YOUR FATHER ...
I NEED YOUR HELP, DOCTOR!
IS THAT RASCAL OFF TRYING TO KILL SOMEONE AGAIN?
SHE'S DOCTOR KIWIKO'S SHISHTER !
HEY, PINOKO KNOWS WHO SHE IS!
OH! RIGHT.
DOESN'T HE EVER TIRE OF KILLING PEOPLE ?
PLEASE... IF YOU WOULD.

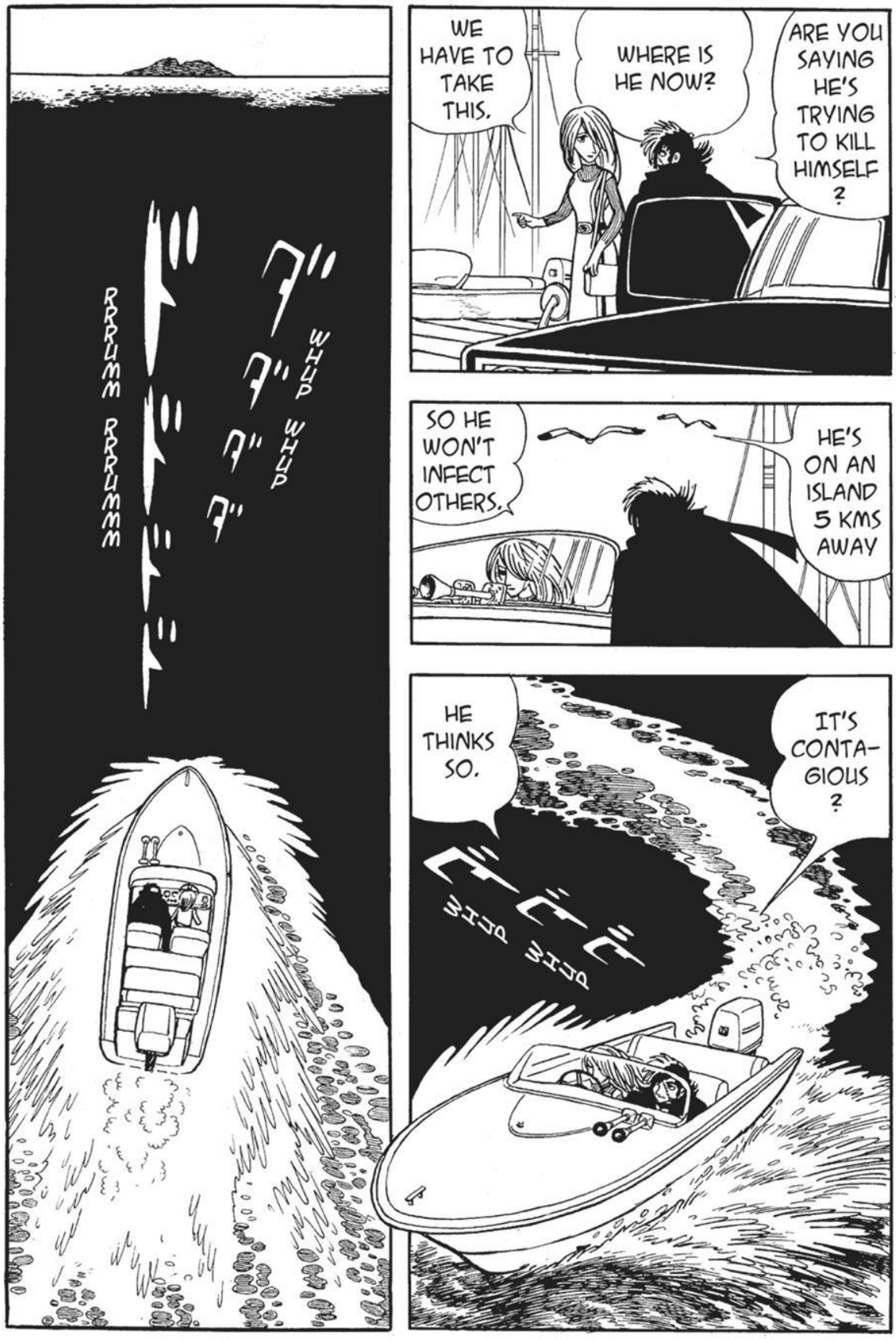

I'M ALWAYS SURPRISED BY HOW EASILY HE GIVES UP ON PATIENTS.

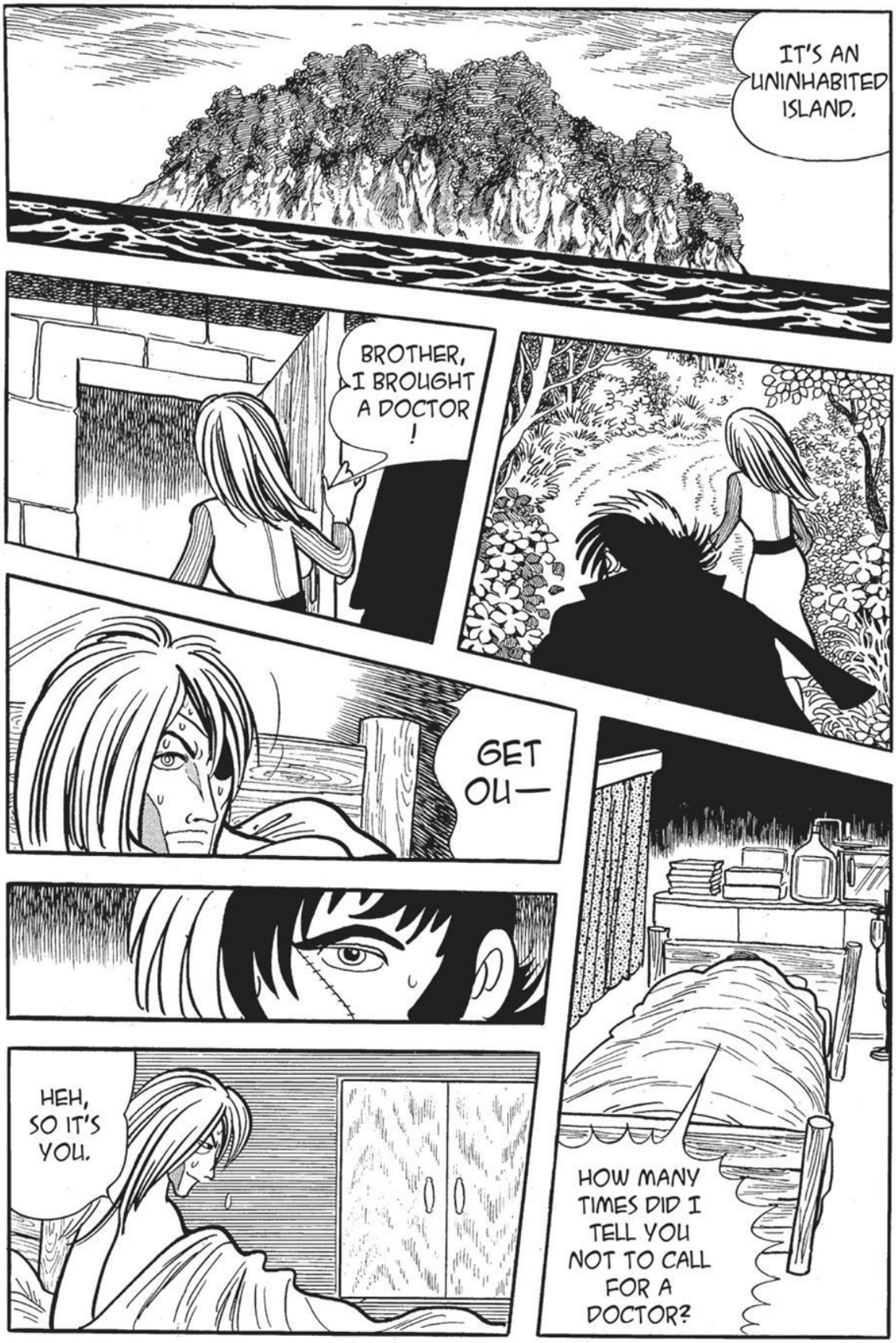
MY BROTHER.


WHO'S THE PATIENT THIS TIME ?

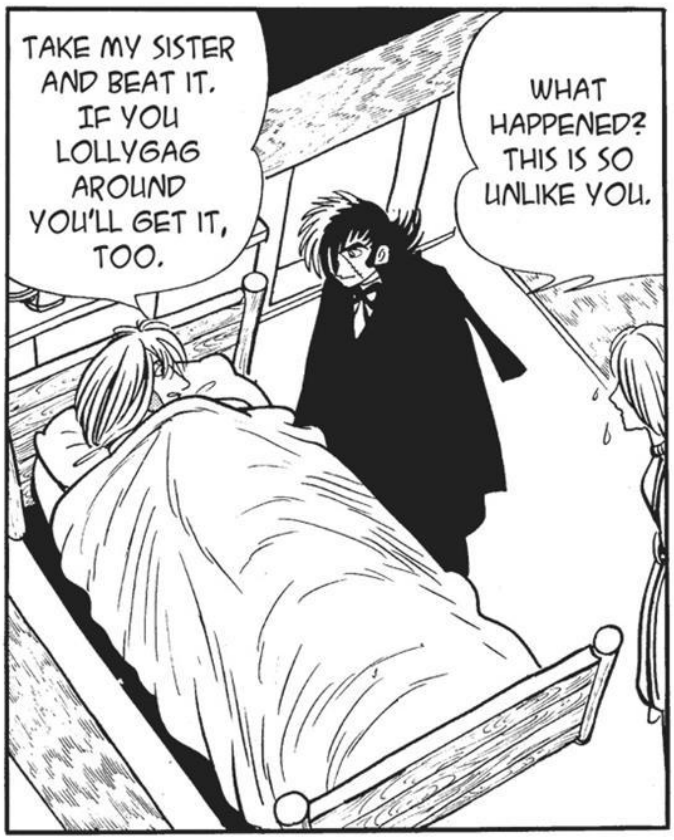
WHAT ?




RRRUMM RRRUMMM
WHUP WHUP
WE HAVE TO TAKE THIS.
WHERE IS HE NOW?
ARE YOU SAYING HE'S TRYING TO KILL HIMSELF ?
SO HE WON'T INFECT OTHERS.
HE'S ON AN ISLAND 5 KMS AWAY
HE THINKS SO.
IT'S CONTA-GIOUS ?
BIIP BIIP


IT'S AN UNINHABITED ISLAND.
BROTHER, I BROUGHT A DOCTOR!
GET OU—
HEH, SO IT'S YOU.
HOW MANY TIMES DID I TELL YOU NOT TO CALL FOR A DOCTOR?

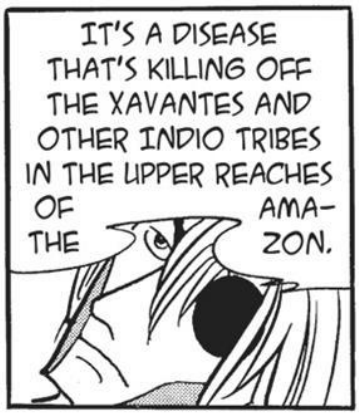
BUT MY SISTER FOUND ME OUT !
I WANTED TO DIE HERE QUIETLY, WITHOUT DISTURBING ANYONE.


TAKE MY SISTER AND BEAT IT. IF YOU LOLLYGAG AROUND YOU'LL GET IT, TOO.
WHAT HAPPENED? THIS IS SO UNLIKE YOU.

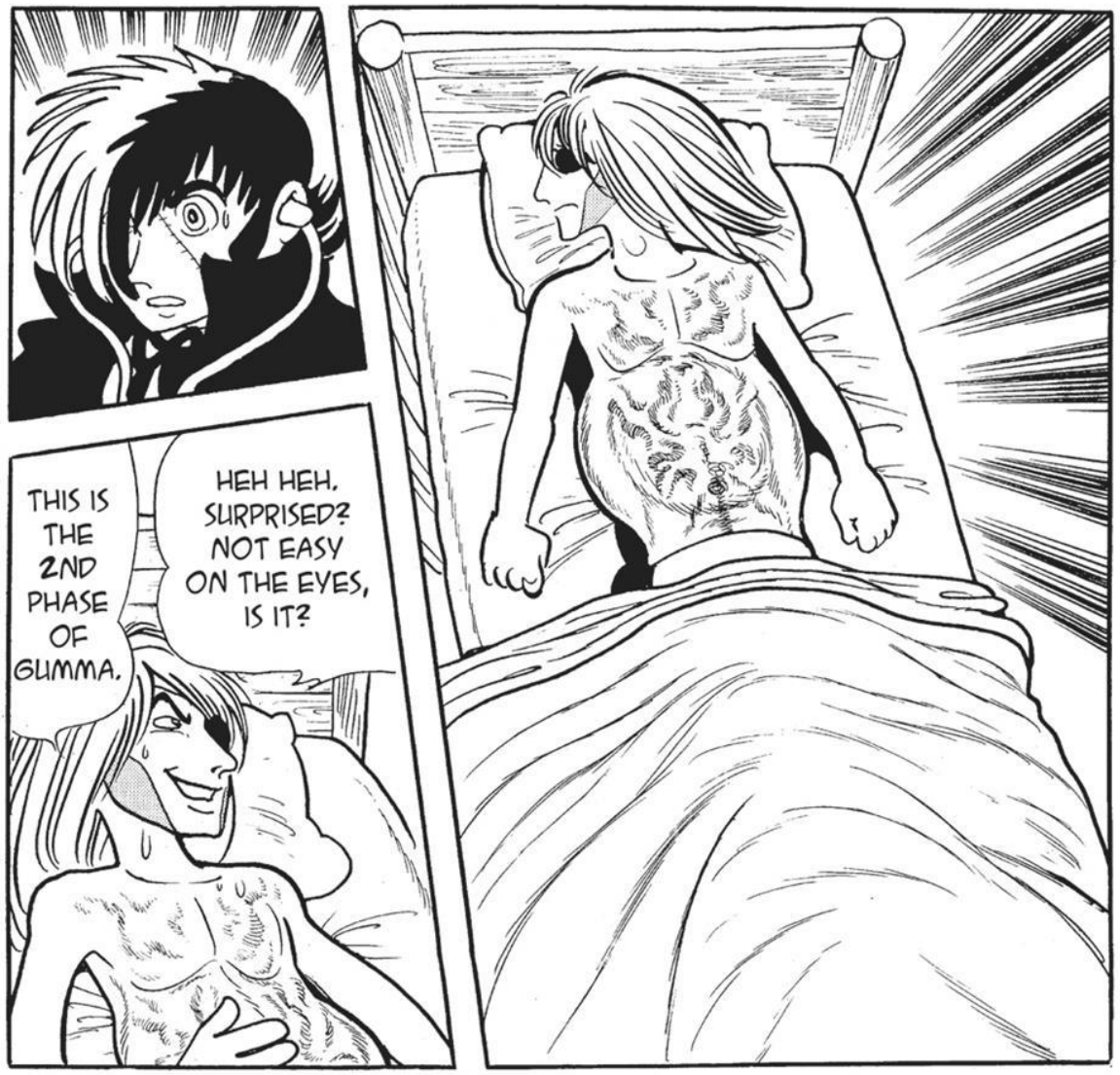
WELL I'M GLAD I DID. I WON'T LET YOU DIE.

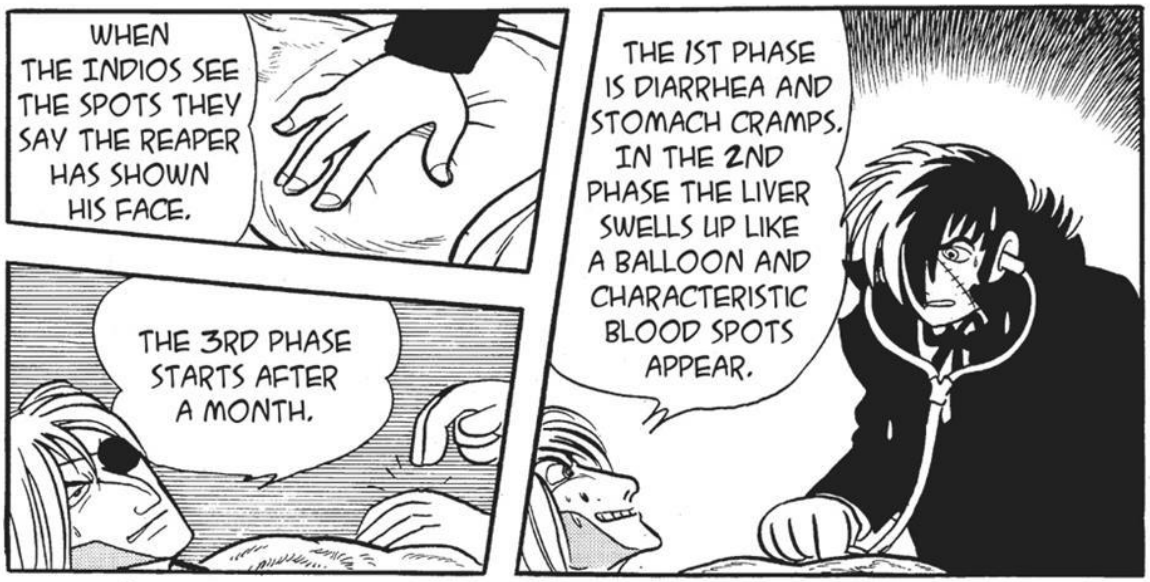
DON'T PUT ON AIRS AND TRY TO DIAGNOSE ME, BLACK JACK!
OH YEAH? THERE'S NO CURE FOR THIS DISEASE, THE GUMMA.

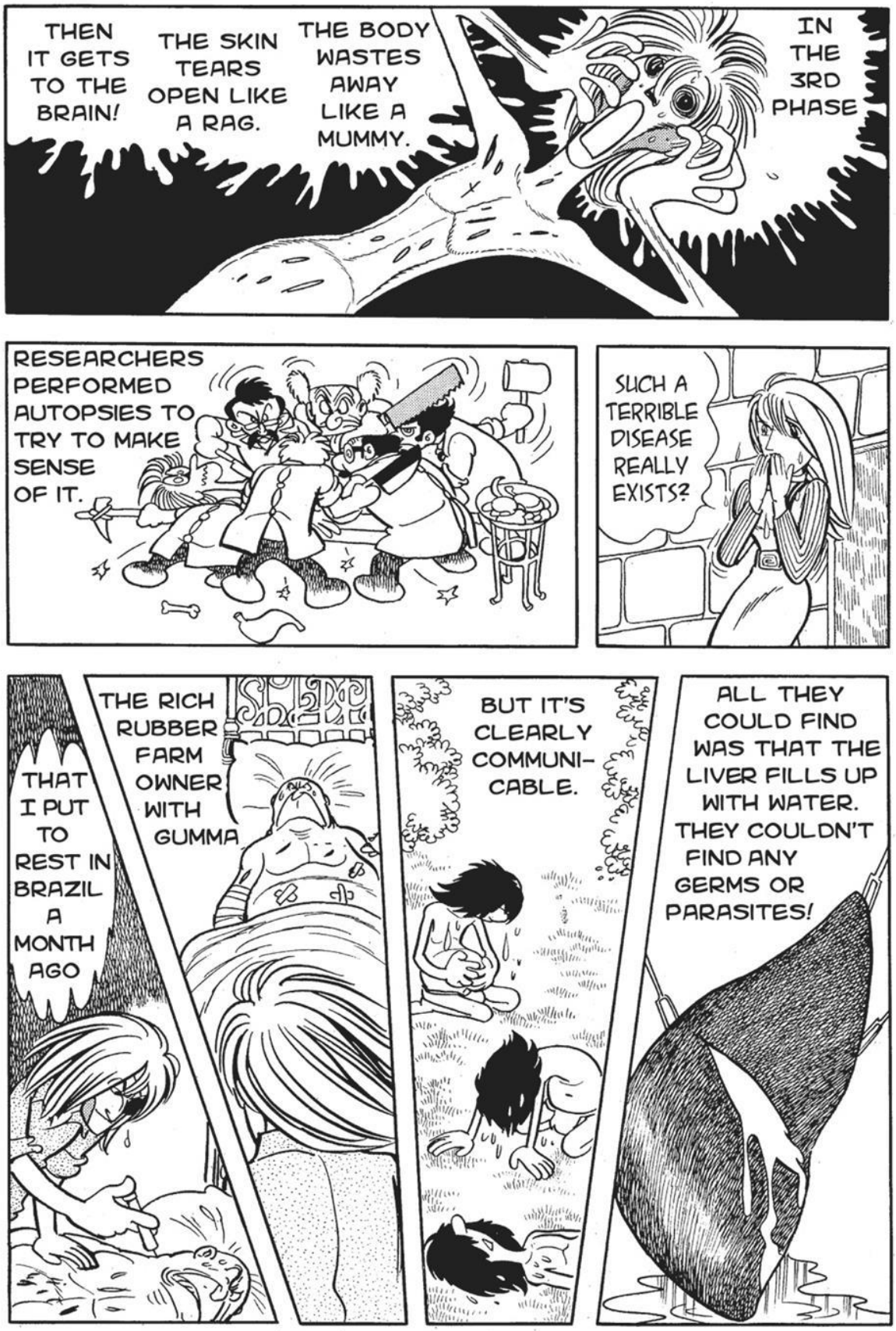
?!


IT'S A DISEASE THAT'S KILLING OFF THE XAVANTES AND OTHER INDIO TRIBES IN THE UPPER REACHES OF THE AMA-ZON.

SO WHAT'S THIS GUMMA ?


HEH HEH. SURPRISED? NOT EASY ON THE EYES, IS IT?
THIS IS THE 2ND PHASE OF GUMMA.

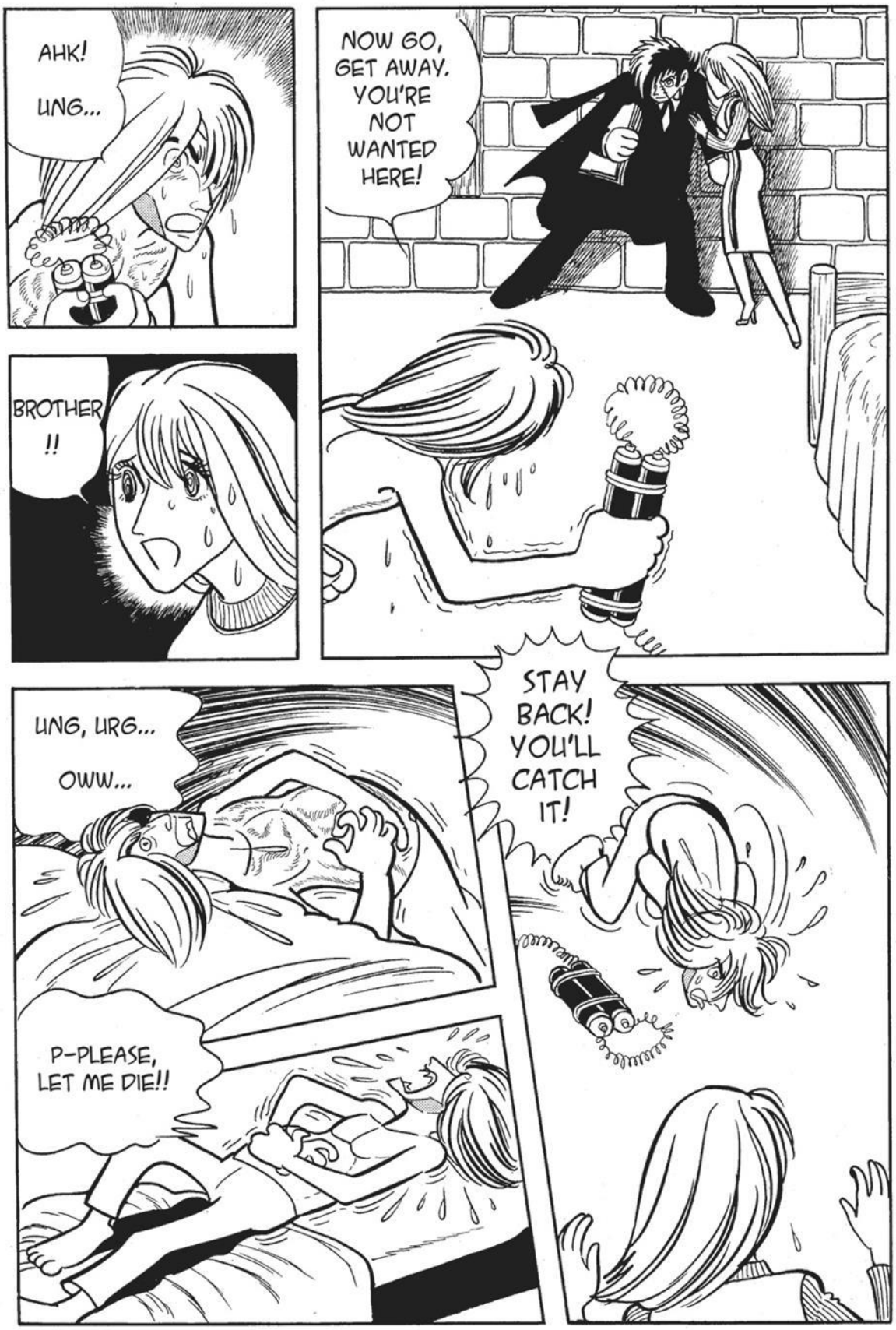

WHEN THE INDIOS SEE THE SPOTS THEY SAY THE REAPER HAS SHOWN HIS FACE.
THE 1ST PHASE IS DIARRHEA AND STOMACH CRAMPS. IN THE 2ND PHASE THE LIVER SWELLS UP LIKE A BALLOON AND CHARACTERISTIC BLOOD SPOTS APPEAR.
THE 3RD PHASE STARTS AFTER A MONTH.

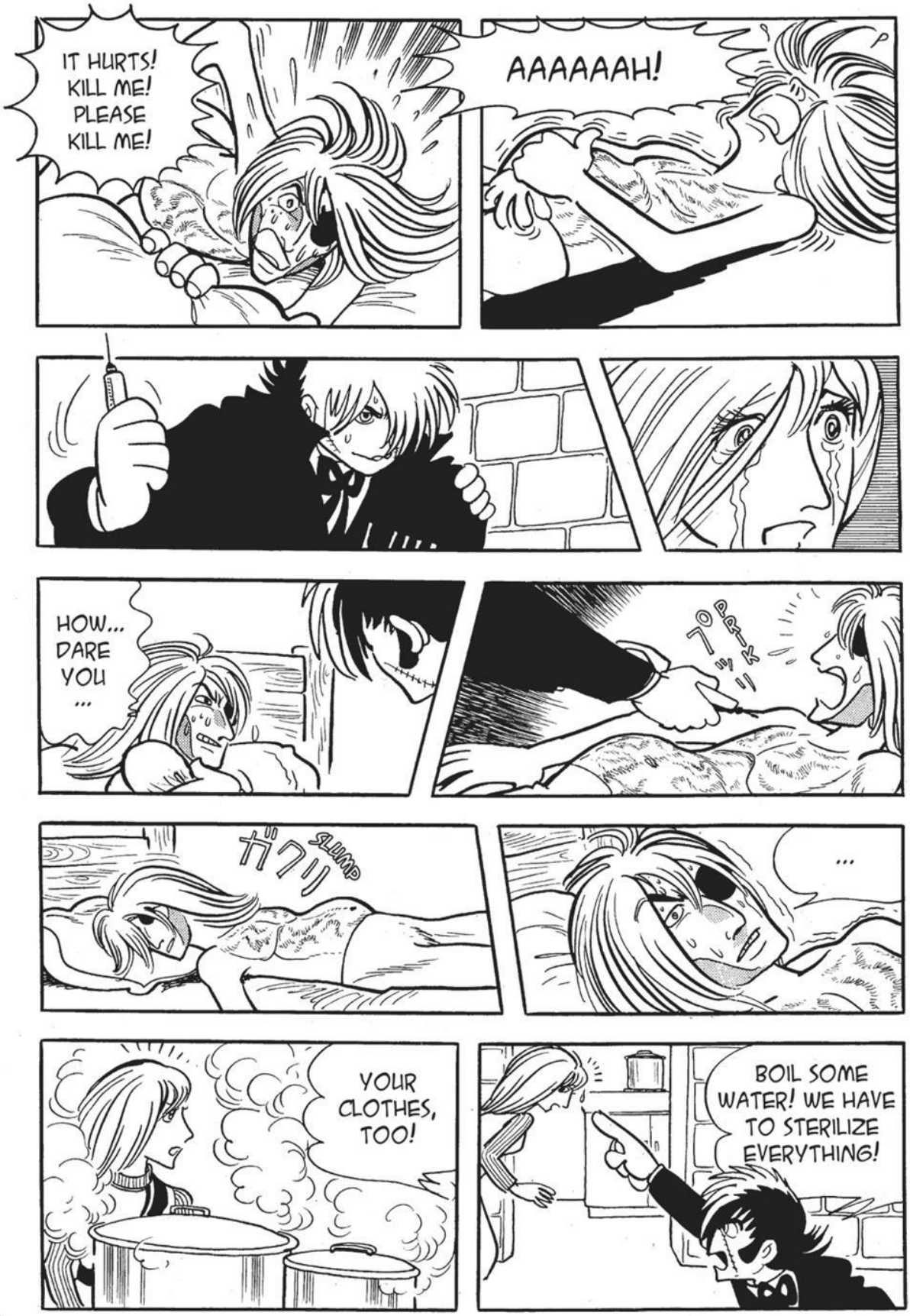

THEN IT GETS TO THE BRAIN!
THE SKIN TEARS OPEN LIKE A RAG.
THE BODY WASTES AWAY LIKE A MUMMY.
IN THE 3RD PHASE
RESEARCHERS PERFORMED AUTOPSIES TO TRY TO MAKE SENSE OF IT.
SUCH A TERRIBLE DISEASE REALLY EXISTS?
THAT I PUT TO REST IN BRAZIL A MONTH AGO
THE RICH RUBBER FARM OWNER WITH GUMMA
BUT IT'S CLEARLY COMMUNI-CABLE.
ALL THEY COULD FIND WAS THAT THE LIVER FILLS UP WITH WATER. THEY COULDN'T FIND ANY GERMS OR PARASITES!

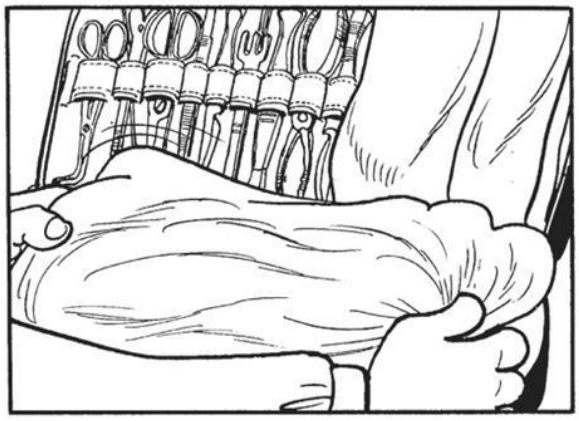
I TRIED DRAINING THE WATER.
I TRIED MADLY TO FIND A CURE ...
MUST HAVE GIVEN IT TO ME. I STARTED TO SHOW SYMPTOMS.
I FOUND MYSELF HEADING TO THIS SMALL ISLAND.
THE DIARRHEA WAS JUST LIKE DYSENTERY'S.
BUT NOTHING WORKED. MY LIVER SWELLED AGAIN.
WHEN I REALIZED IT CAN'T BE CURED
I WANT TO DIE PEACEFULLY BEFORE THE THIRD PHASE BEGINS. I'LL TORCH THIS VILLA, TOO.
IF I DIE, THE DISEASE WON'T SPREAD IN JAPAN.

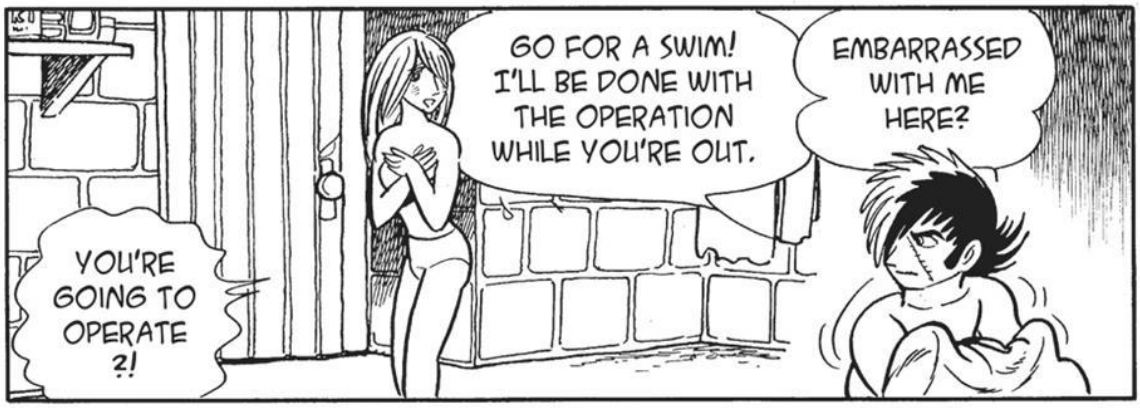
IF YOU GET INFECTED I WILL DIE IN VAIN!
DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND MY WISH ?
NOW GO, GET AWAY FROM HERE.
AH, DYNAMITE. I KNOW YOU ALL TOO WELL.
WHAT'S IN HERE?
NICE TRY, BUT NO.
YOU WANT TO DIE PEACEFULLY, THEN BURN?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
BUT THINK OF YOUR SISTER WHO'LL BE LEFT BEHIND.
FINE FOR YOU TO EUTHANIZE YOURSELF
STOP!!

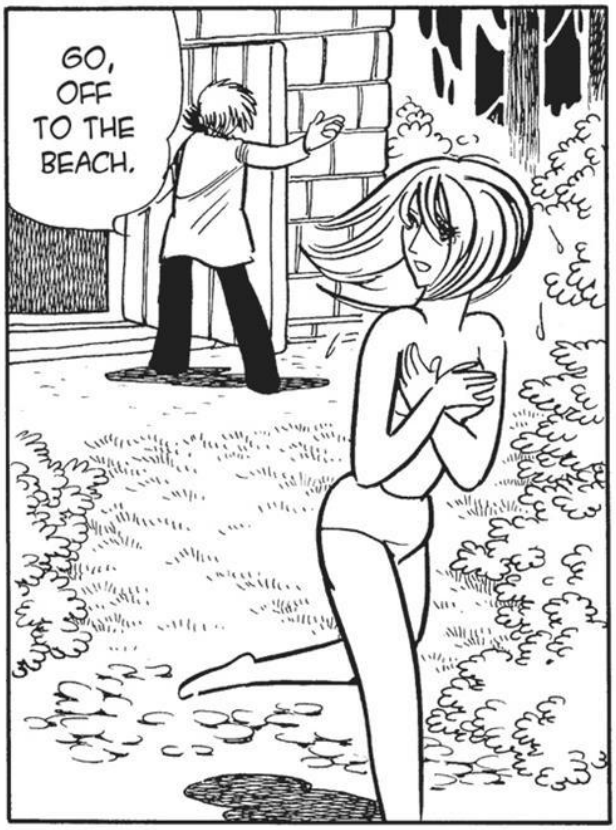
THAT'S MY BAG !!
WHY WON'T YOU LISTEN?
BLACK JACK
GIVE THEM BACK!
IF YOU ARE NOT GONE IN 3 MINUTES I'LL BLOW YOU AWAY!
GET AWAY FROM HERE.

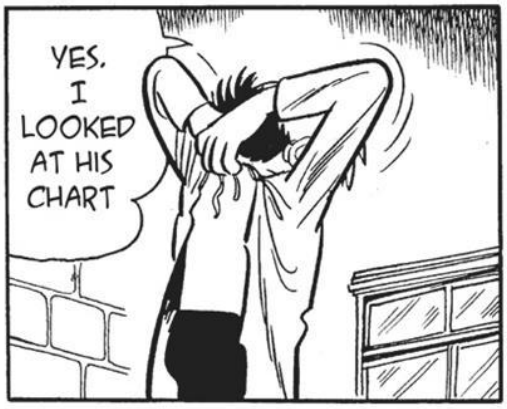

AHK!
UNG...
NOW GO, GET AWAY. YOU'RE NOT WANTED HERE!
BROTHER !!
STAY BACK! YOU'LL CATCH IT!
UNG, URG...
OWW...
P-PLEASE, LET ME DIE!!


IT HURTS! KILL ME! PLEASE KILL ME!
AAAAAAH!
HOW... DARE YOU ...
パチッ
ガクリ SLUMP
...
YOUR CLOTHES, TOO!
BOIL SOME WATER! WE HAVE TO STERILIZE EVERYTHING!

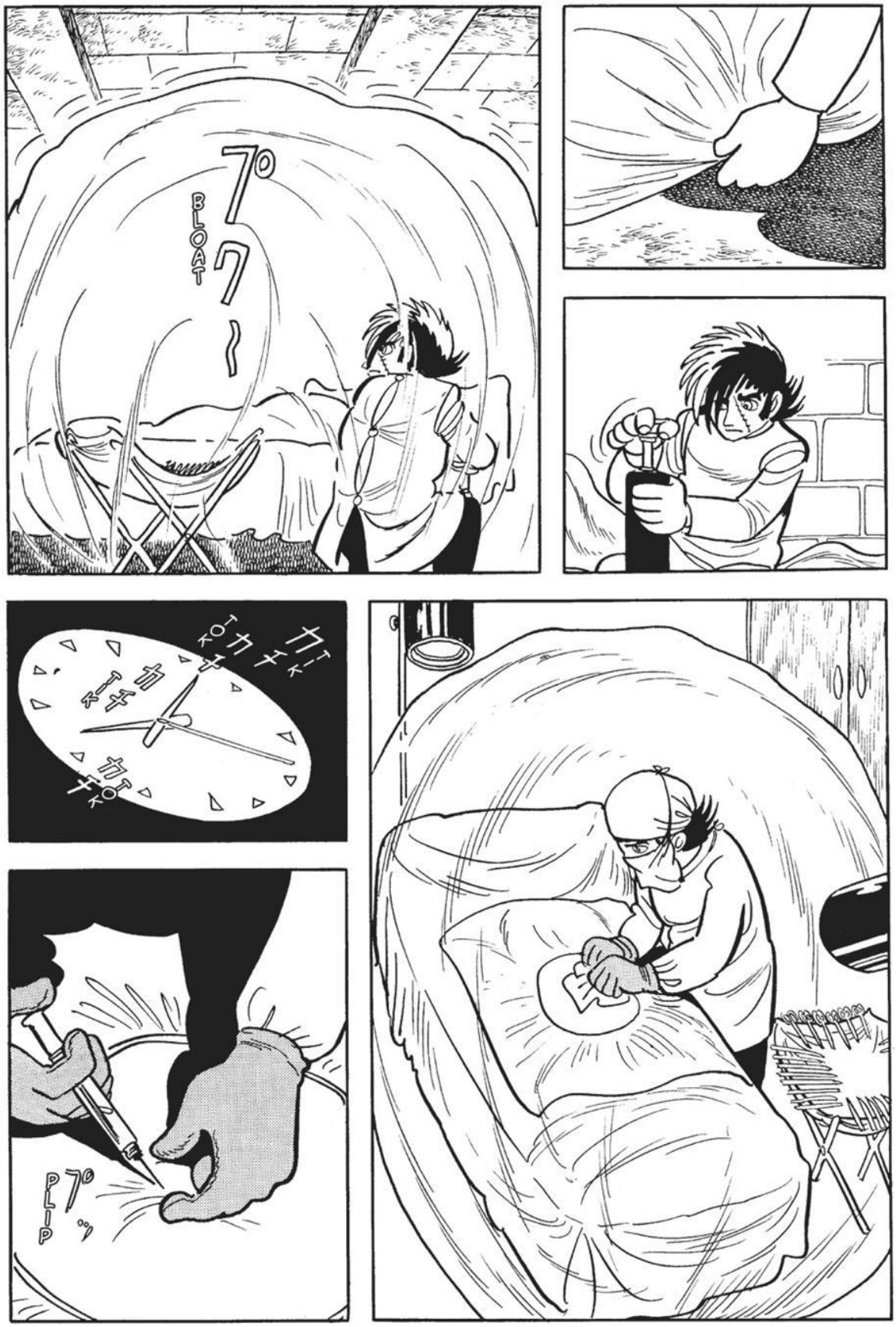


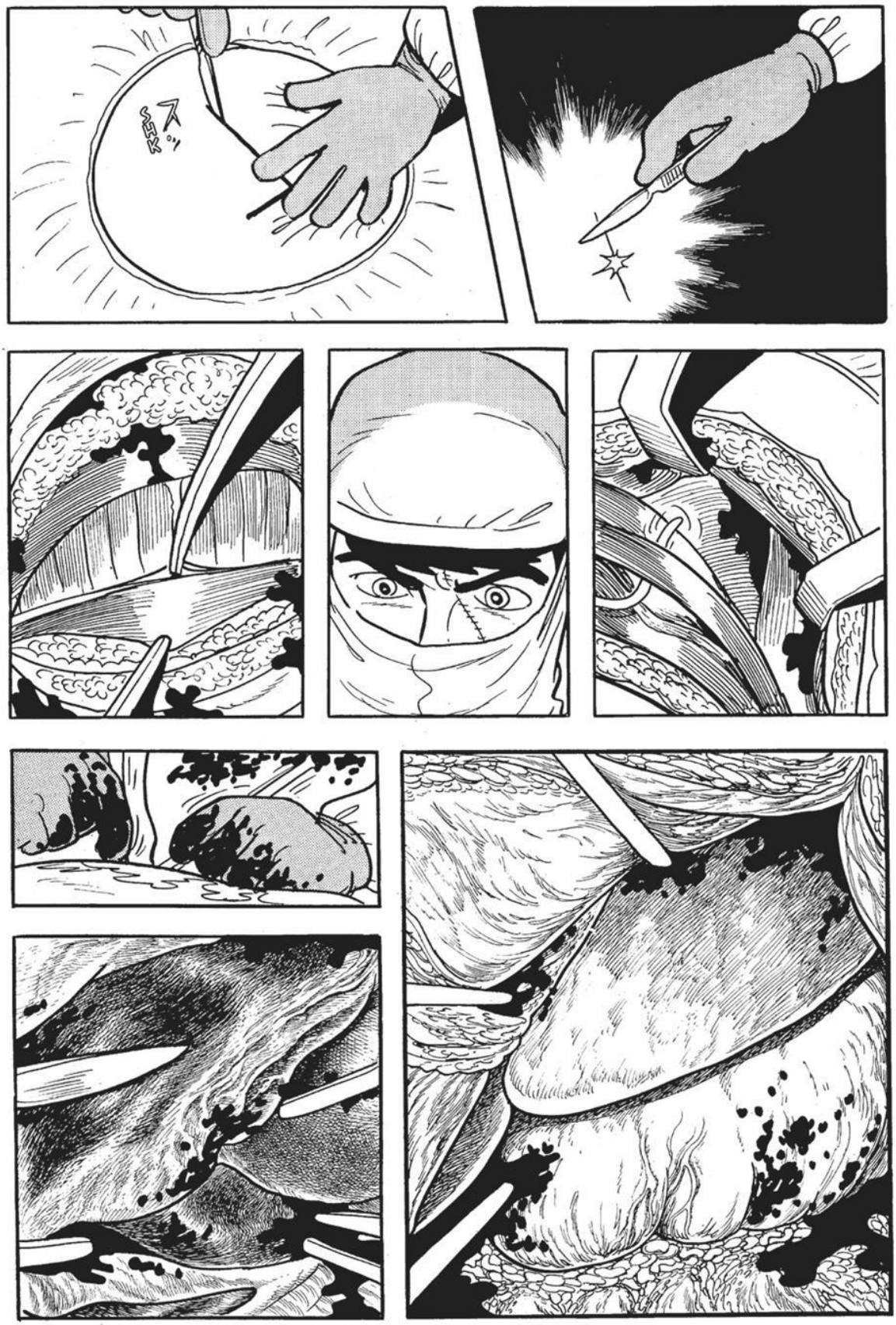

GO FOR A SWIM! I'LL BE DONE WITH THE OPERATION WHILE YOU'RE OUT.
EMBARRASSED WITH ME HERE?
YOU'RE GOING TO OPERATE ?!


GO, OFF TO THE BEACH.

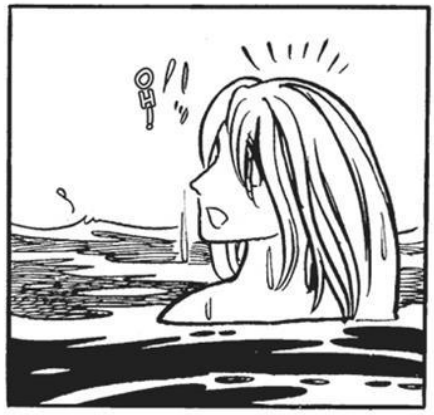

YES. I LOOKED AT HIS CHART

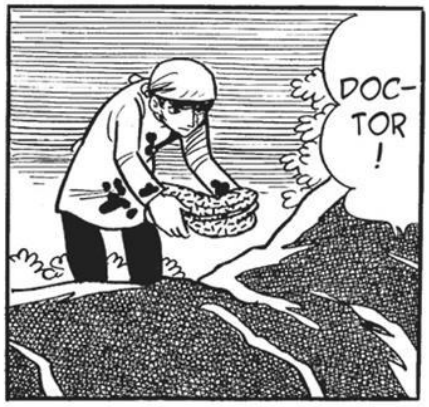
AND SAW THAT IT'S INDEED HIS LIVER. I'LL CUT INTO IT.


ブクブク
BLOAT
カチ
カチ
カチ
カチ
カチ
カチ
プリップ
PLIP


SHK

HM ?
SHIK
WATER! WATER IN THE LIVER...
WHAT'S IT DOING HERE?
WHY WATER ?
PZZT
THIS CAN'T BE JUST WATER.
SO MUCH, TOO.


OH!

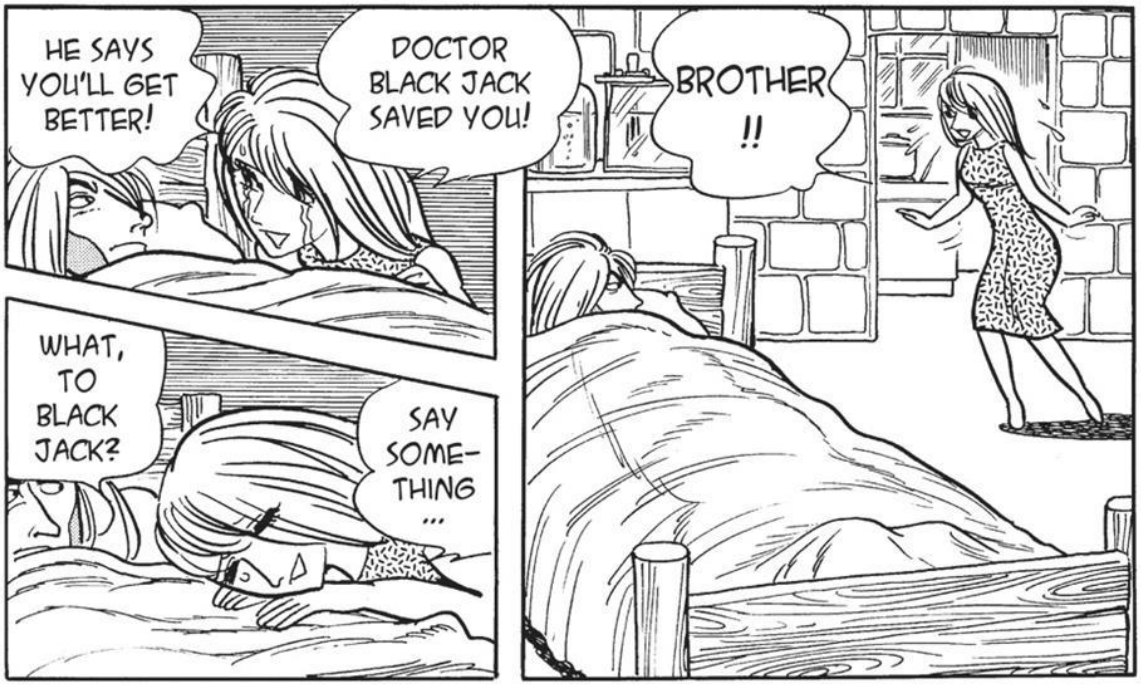

DOC-
TOR
!

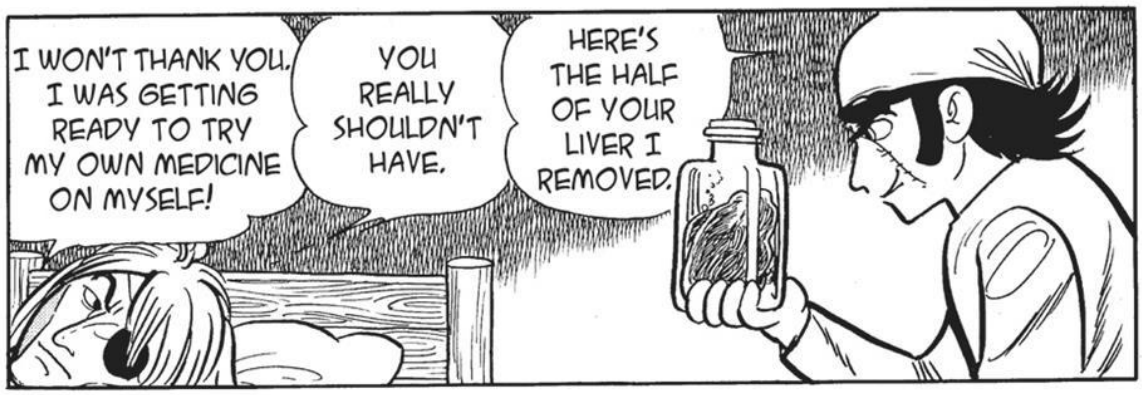
I HAD TO REMOVE HALF HIS LIVER, BUT HE SHOULD BE FINE.
S-SO DID YOU CURE HIM ?

PUT THOSE ON. THEY'RE DISIN-FECTED.
HOW IS HE ?
SLEEPING LIKE A BABY. I MUST'VE INJECTED TOO MUCH ANESTHETIC.

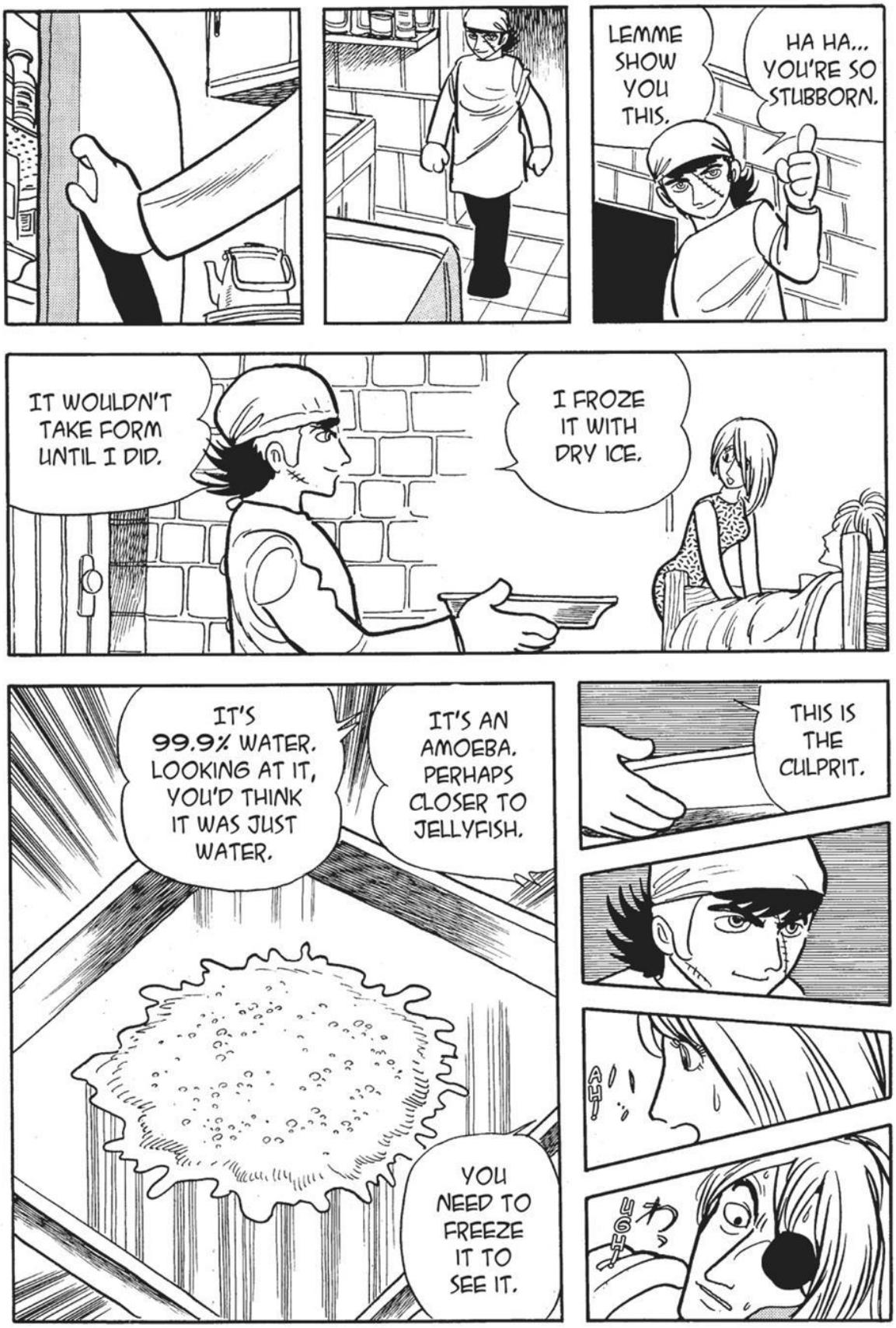
IT'S PRETTY SICK...
I FOUND OUT WHAT GUMMA IS.

SOB
SOB


HE SAYS YOU'LL GET BETTER!
DOCTOR BLACK JACK SAVED YOU!
BROTHER !!
WHAT, TO BLACK JACK?
SAY SOME-THING ...


I WON'T THANK YOU. I WAS GETTING READY TO TRY MY OWN MEDICINE ON MYSELF!
YOU REALLY SHOULDN'T HAVE.
HERE'S THE HALF OF YOUR LIVER I REMOVED.

AS LONG AS PEOPLE ASK ME TO, I WILL KILL AND KILL!
YOU HAVE TO STOP PRACTICING EUTHANASIA!
BROTHER, AREN'T YOU HAPPY TO BE ALIVE?!


LEMME SHOW YOU THIS.
HA HA... YOU'RE SO STUBBORN.
IT WOULDN'T TAKE FORM UNTIL I DID.
I FROZE IT WITH DRY ICE.
IT'S 99.9% WATER. LOOKING AT IT, YOU'D THINK IT WAS JUST WATER.
IT'S AN AMOEBA. PERHAPS CLOSER TO JELLYFISH.
YOU NEED TO FREEZE IT TO SEE IT.
THIS IS THE CULPRIT.
AH-!
わっ
UGH-!

MAYBE IT CAME FROM OUTER SPACE.
I HAD A SUDDEN THOUGHT ABOUT THAT.

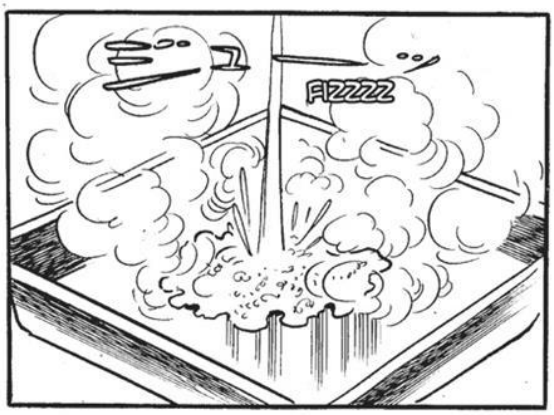
IT'S AN ORGANISM ?
TO THINK SUCH A FOUL CREATURE LIVES ON EARTH...

HOW ABOUT IT, DOCTOR KIRIKO? WHY DON'CHA EUTHANIZE YOUR LITTLE FRIEND?

IS IT STILL ALIVE ?

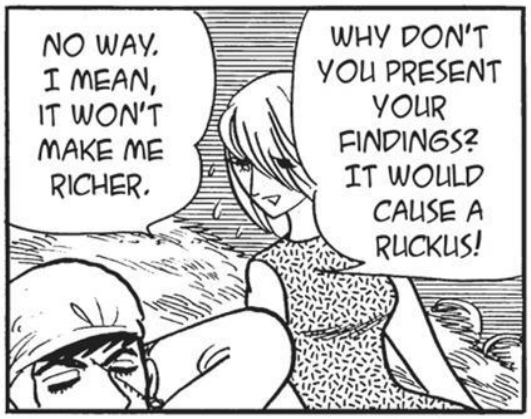
YES, IT IS.

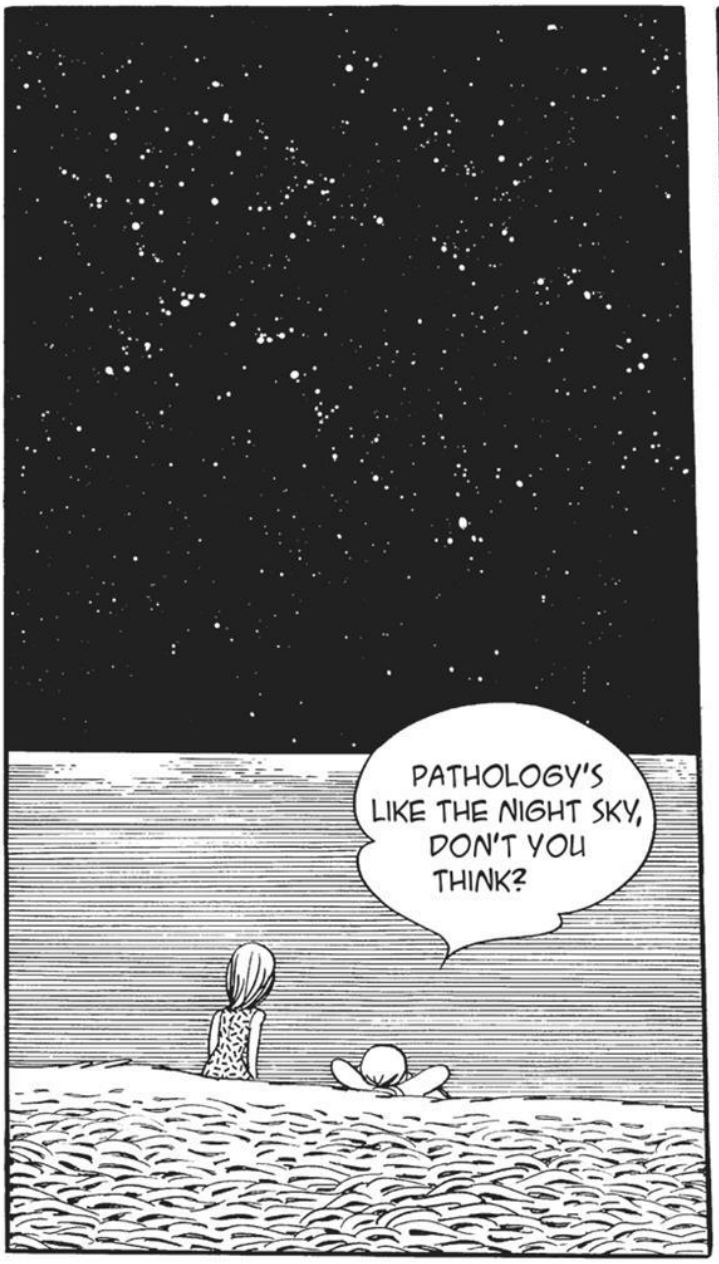
KILL IT, QUICK !


FZZZZZ

GIVE ME A BREAK ...

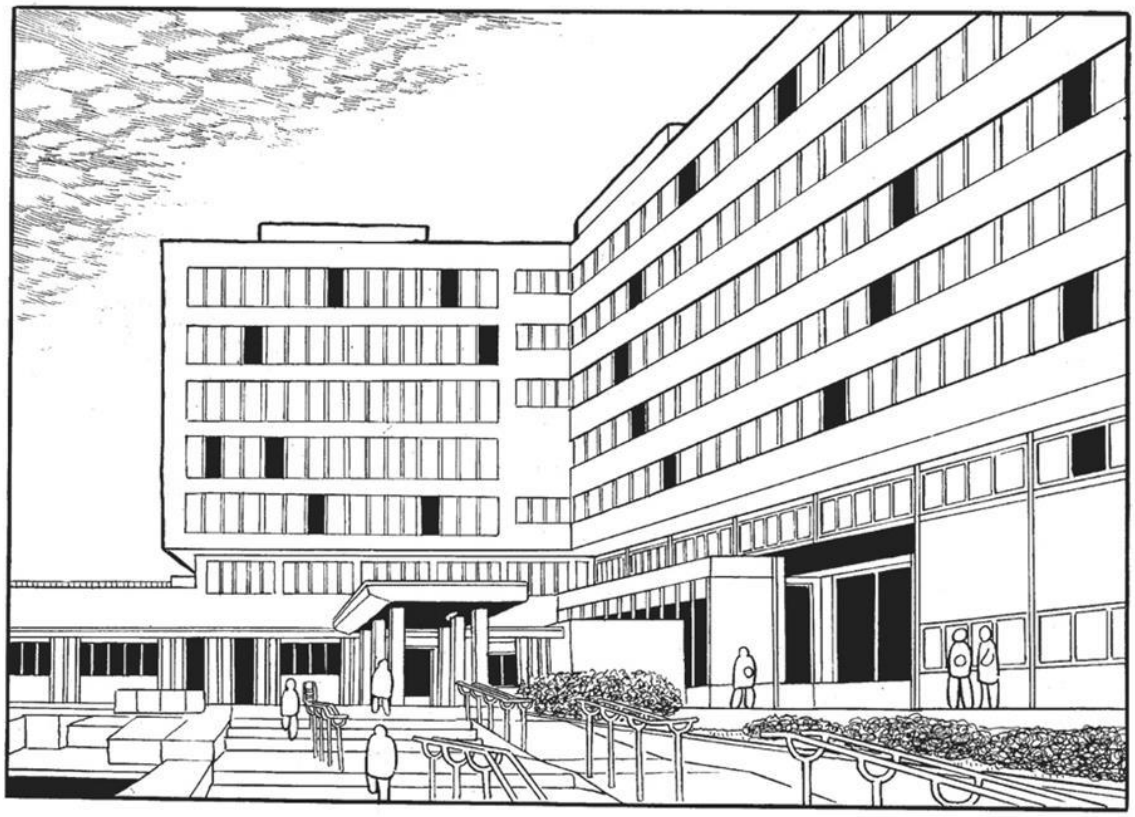
LOOKS RIPE FOR A SHOOTING STAR.

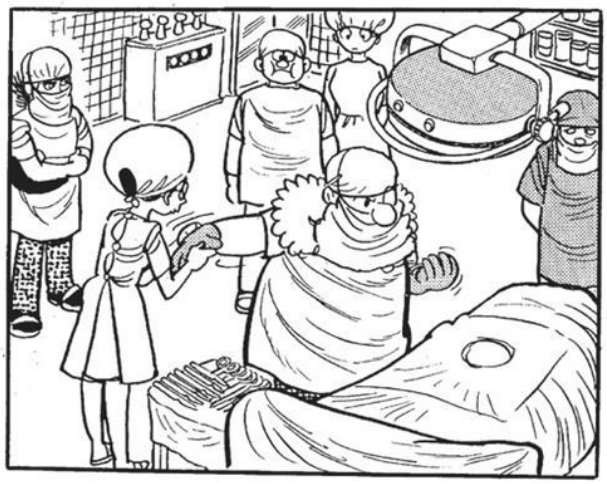

NO WAY. I MEAN, IT WON'T MAKE ME RICHER.
WHY DON'T YOU PRESENT YOUR FINDINGS? IT WOULD CAUSE A RUCKUS!


PATHOLOGY'S LIKE THE NIGHT SKY, DON'T YOU THINK?

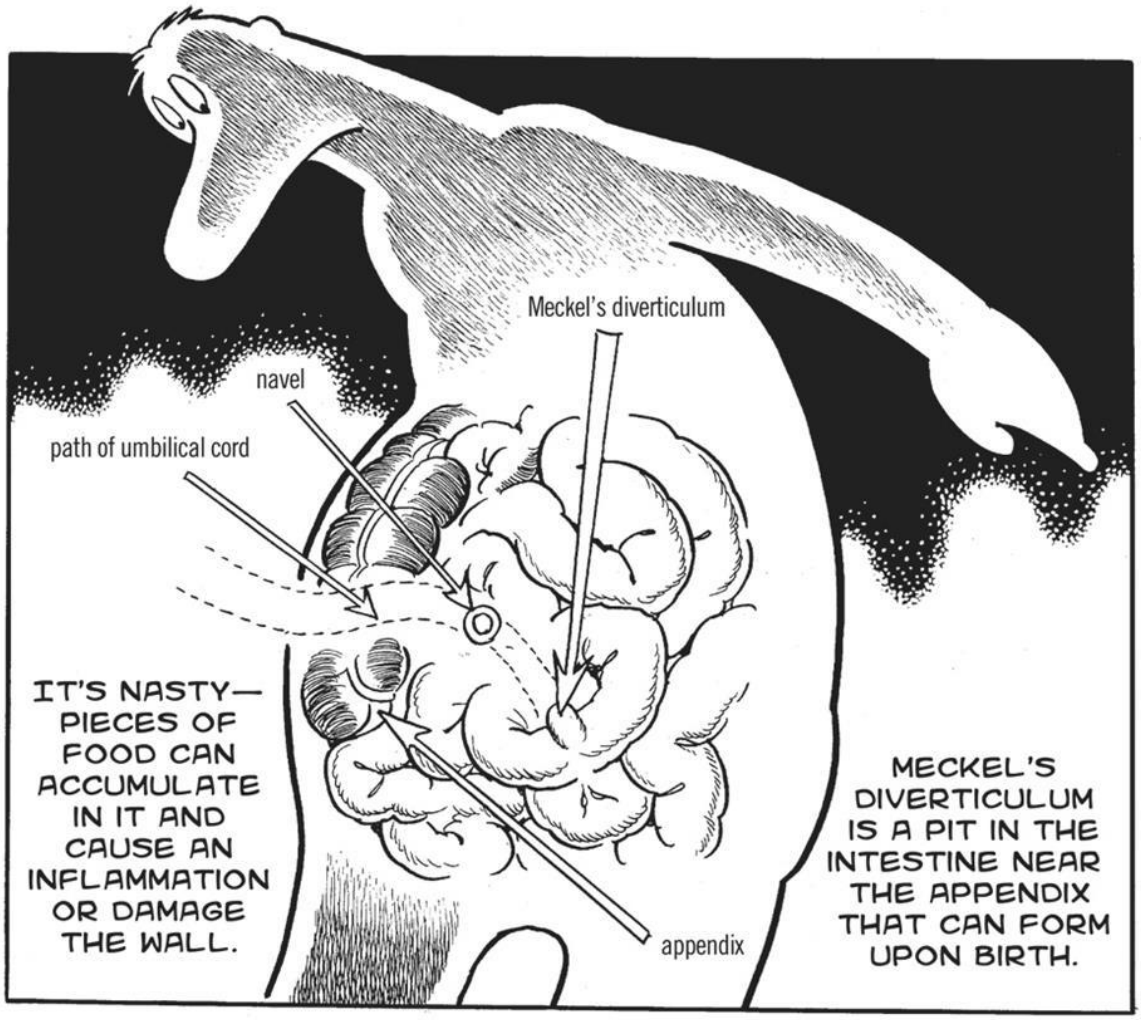
EVERY DAY DOZENS OF STARS FALL BURNING FROM THE SKY
BUT THERE ARE ALWAYS JUST AS MANY.

# THE HELPER



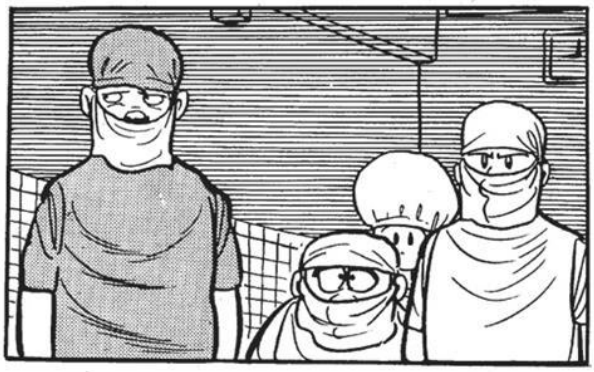


RUB RUB
HM ?
THIS IS FROM 4 WEEKS AGO.
X-RAY?
AND THIS IS FROM 2 WEEKS AGO.
URR
THEY'RE IDENTICAL. THE AREA IN QUESTION HASN'T ENLARGED.
THE PATIENT IS A 14-YEAR-OLD MALE WHO DEVELOPED DIVERTICULITIS A YEAR AGO BUT RECOVERED WITHOUT SURGICAL TREATMENT.
WE'LL REMOVE THE MECKEL'S DIVER-TICULUM.


Meckel's diverticulum
navel
path of umbilical cord
IT'S NASTY— PIECES OF FOOD CAN ACCUMULATE IN IT AND CAUSE AN INFLAMMATION OR DAMAGE THE WALL.
appendix
MECKEL'S DIVERTICULUM IS A PIT IN THE INTESTINE NEAR THE APPENDIX THAT CAN FORM UPON BIRTH.

OPENING ABDOMEN AT LOWER MEDIAN TO REMOVE INTESTINAL SECTION ALONG WITH DIVERTICULUM, THEN SUTURING END-TO-END ANASTOMOSIS.
WE'LL PERFORM PREVENTIVE SURGERY TO ENSURE THAT NO FURTHER INFLAMMATION OCCURS.

HERE?

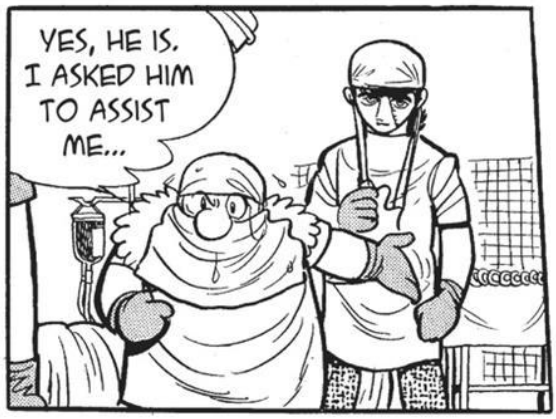


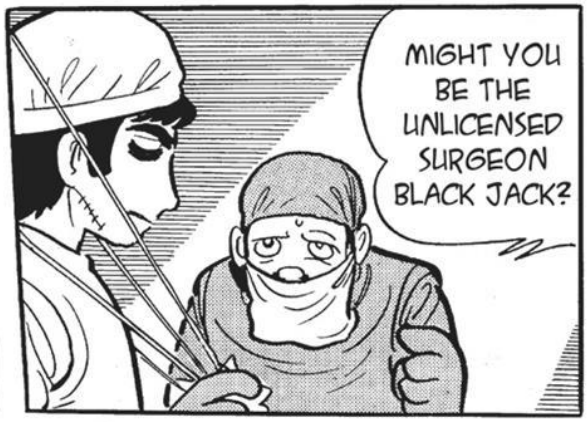
WAIT!!

UNG

SHOW ME YOUR FACE.

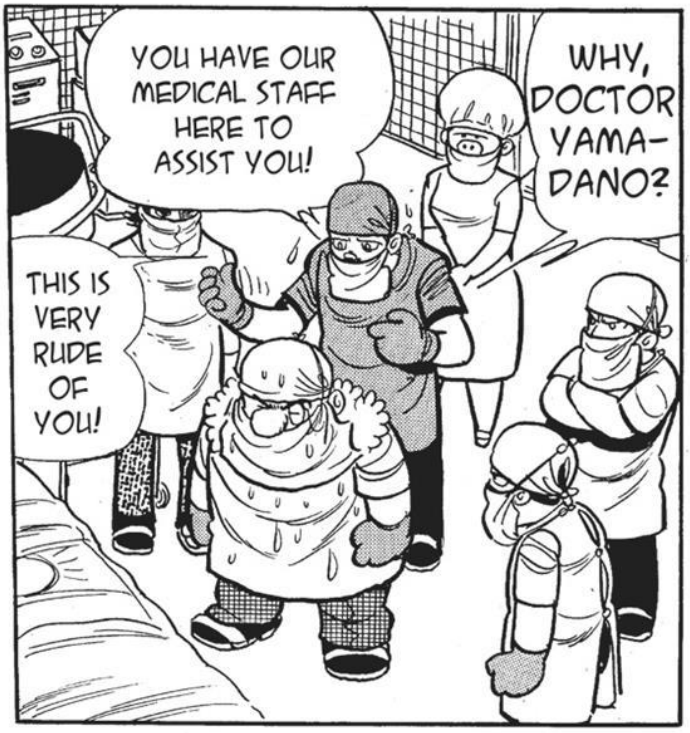
WHO ARE YOU? YOU'RE NOT FROM THIS HOSPITAL, ARE YOU?

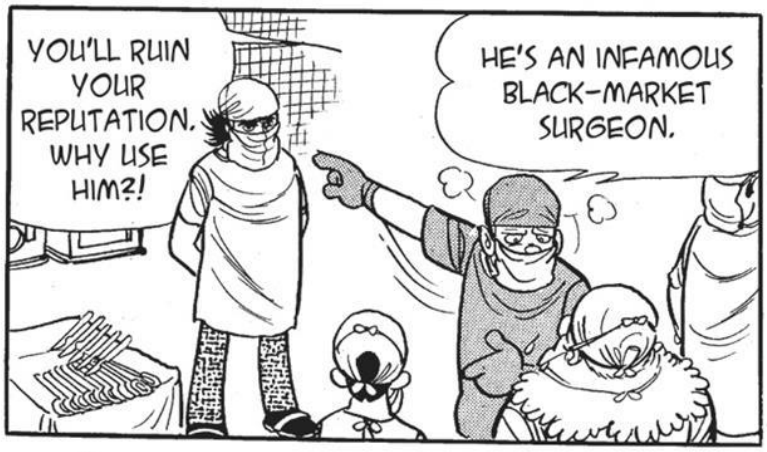

YES, HE IS. I ASKED HIM TO ASSIST ME...


MIGHT YOU BE THE UNLICENSED SURGEON BLACK JACK?

...

AS ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, I STRONGLY OBJECT!


YOU HAVE OUR MEDICAL STAFF HERE TO ASSIST YOU!
WHY, DOCTOR YAMA-DANO?
THIS IS VERY RUDE OF YOU!

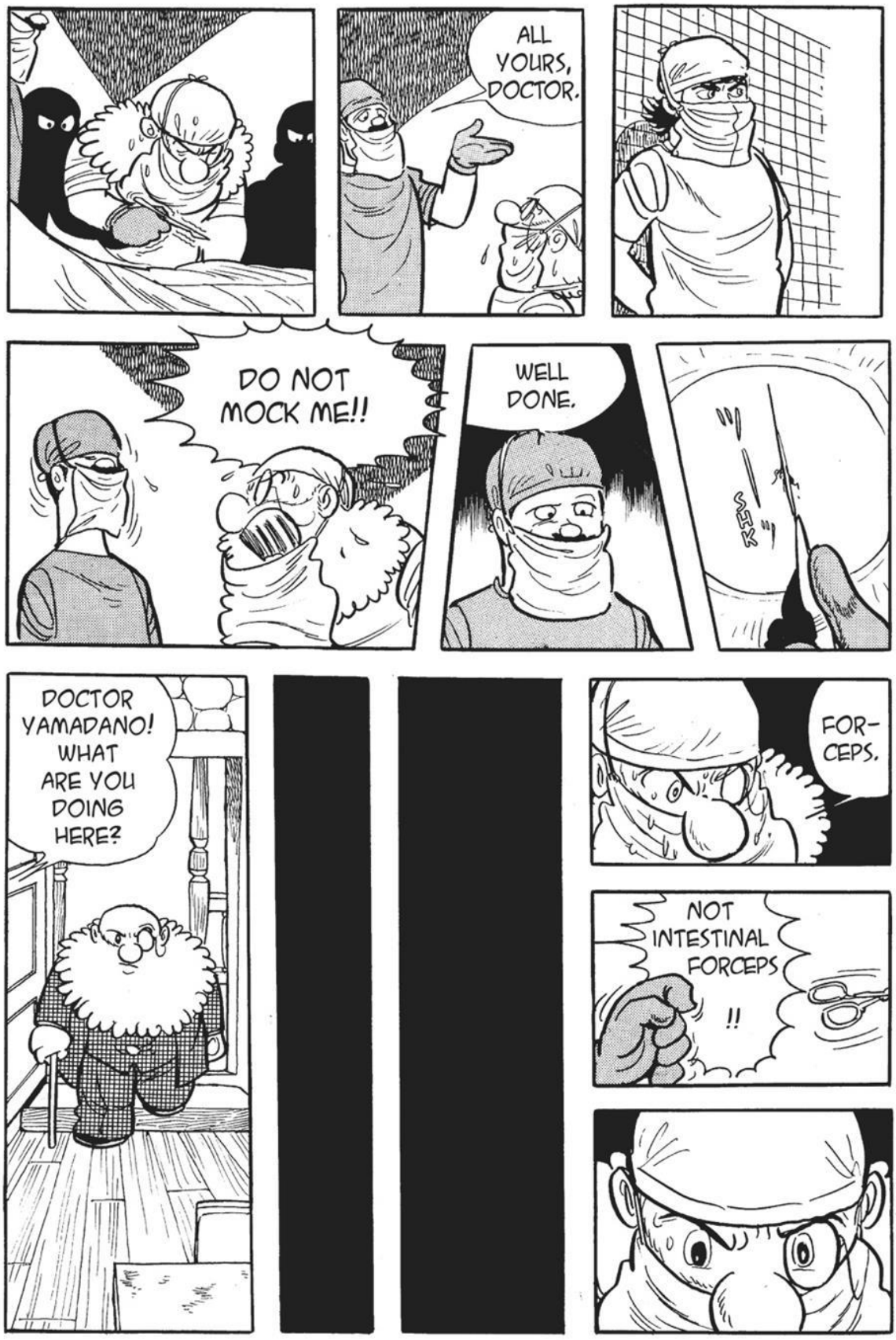

YOU'LL RUIN YOUR REPUTATION. WHY USE HIM?!
HE'S AN INFAMOUS BLACK-MARKET SURGEON.

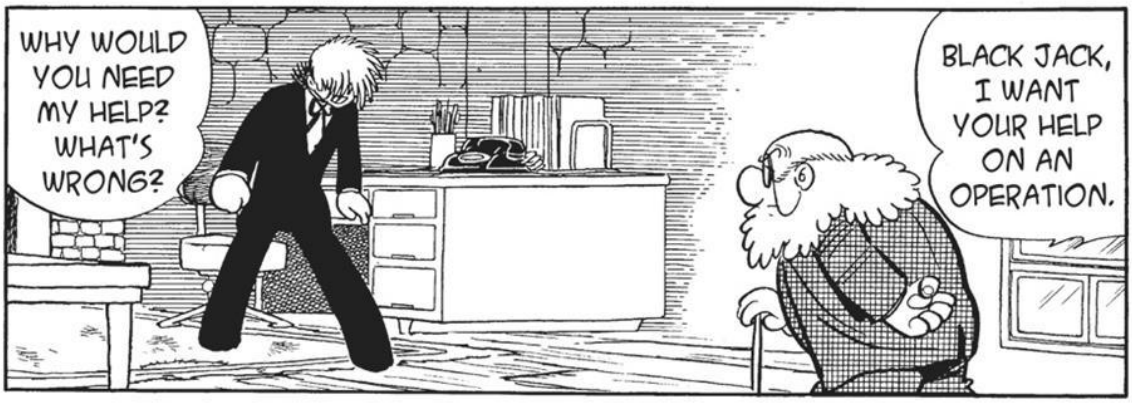
IT WASN'T OUT OF MALICE.

JUST WATCH FROM THAT CORNER.

EXCUSE ME, BUT YOU NEED TO STAY OUT OF THIS OPERATION.

I TAUGHT HIM!
I AM SORRY I DID THIS, BUT—


ALL YOURS, DOCTOR.
DO NOT MOCK ME!!
WELL DONE.
SHIK
DOCTOR YAMADANO! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
FOR-CEPS.
NOT INTESTINAL FORCEPS !!

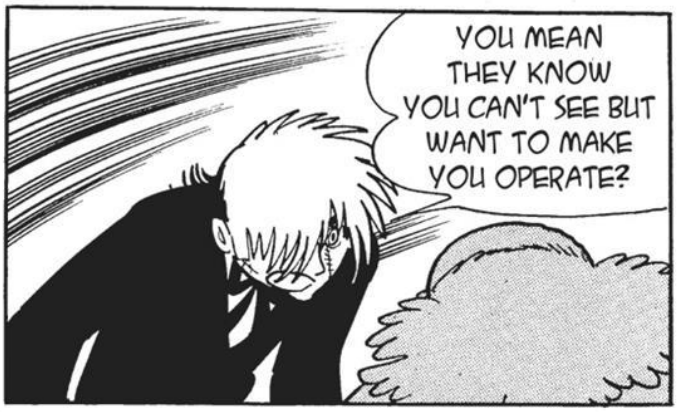


NOTE: THOUGH A PLAUSIBLE SURNAME, "KUSAI" ALSO MEANS *STINKS* IN JAPANESE.

BUT IT'S JUST A SIMPLE CASE OF DIVER-TICULITIS.
THEY'RE TRYING TO TRICK ME INTO MESSING UP DURING AN OPERATION.
A LIGHT ...
LOOKING FOR SOME-THING, DOC?
THANKS.
MATCHES ? THERE'S A BOX.
ARE YOU... GOING BLIND ?!
DOC-TOR !!

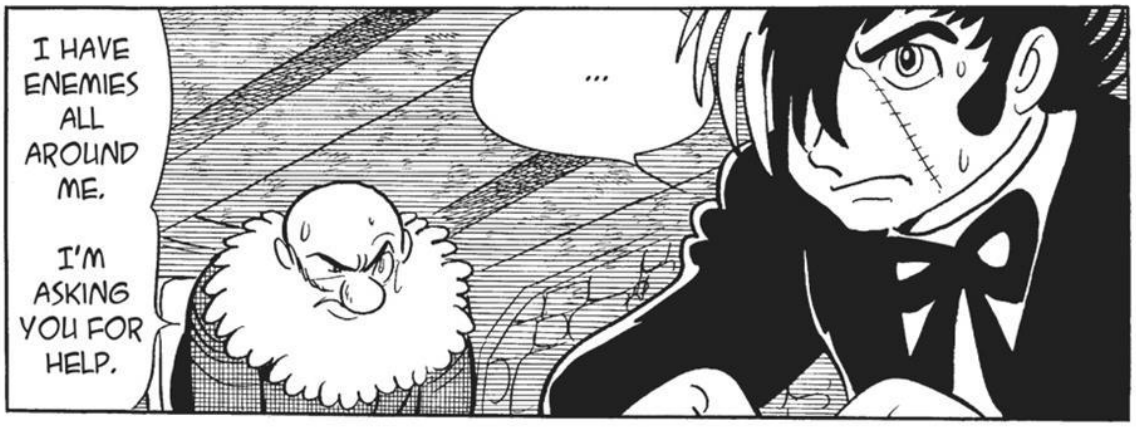
BUT AT DIAGNOSIS, THEY'LL NOT BEAT ME JUST YET!
NO, THAT'S WHY I HAVEN'T BEEN OPERATING. I LEAVE IT TO KUSAI AND OTHERS.

YOU OPERATE EVEN IN THAT STATE ?
MY RETINA STARTED GOING ABOUT A YEAR AGO. I CAN'T SEE VERY WELL.

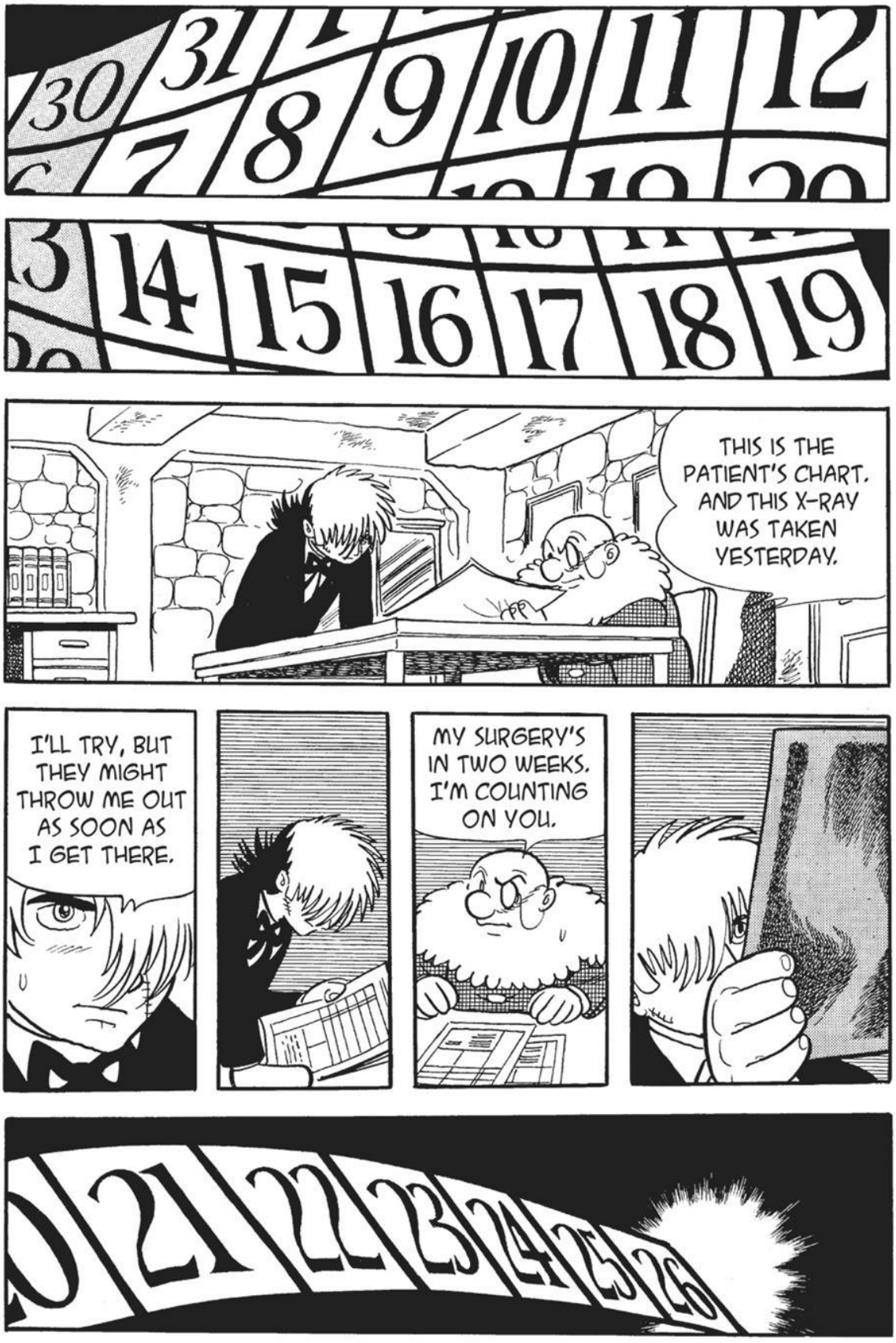

YOU MEAN THEY KNOW YOU CAN'T SEE BUT WANT TO MAKE YOU OPERATE?

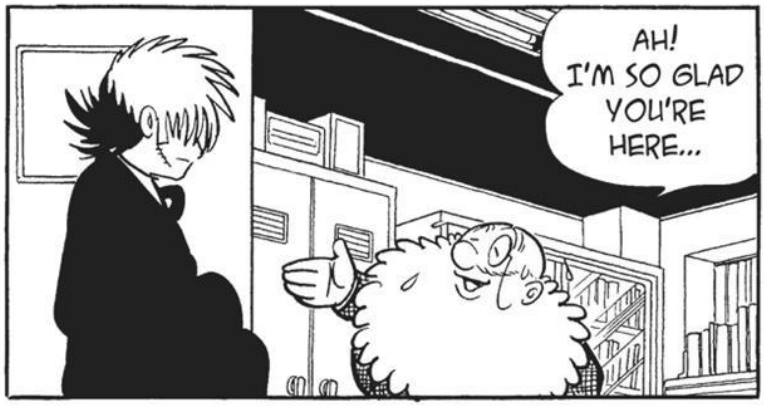
IF I FAIL THEY'LL MOCK ME AND FORCE ME TO RETIRE.

BUT THERE'S NO WAY I CAN.
YES. I TRIED TO GET OUT OF IT, BUT THEY SAID THEY'D HELP. THEY'RE HELL-BENT ON MAKING ME PICK UP A SCALPEL.


I HAVE ENEMIES ALL AROUND ME.
I'M ASKING YOU FOR HELP.
...

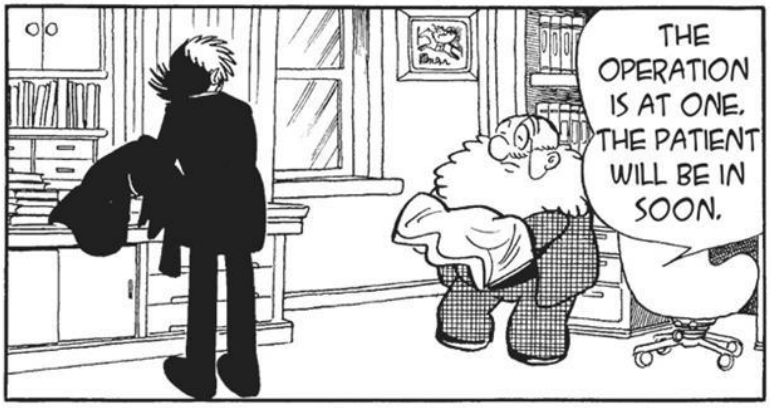
THEY'LL HAVE A FIT IF THEY SEE YOU AROUND THE DEPARTMENT. INSTEAD JUST SNEAK INTO MY OFFICE. I'LL LEAD YOU TO THE OPERATING ROOM.
...
WHEN IS YOUR SURGERY ?
PLEASE ...
THANK YOU... A MONTH FROM TODAY, THEN. I'M RELYING ON YOU.
IT'S NOT URGENT. I CAN EASILY ACCOMODATE YOUR SCHEDULE.
CAN WE MAKE IT A MONTH FROM NOW ?


THIS IS THE PATIENT'S CHART. AND THIS X-RAY WAS TAKEN YESTERDAY.
I'LL TRY, BUT THEY MIGHT THROW ME OUT AS SOON AS I GET THERE.
MY SURGERY'S IN TWO WEEKS. I'M COUNTING ON YOU.


AH! I'M SO GLAD YOU'RE HERE...

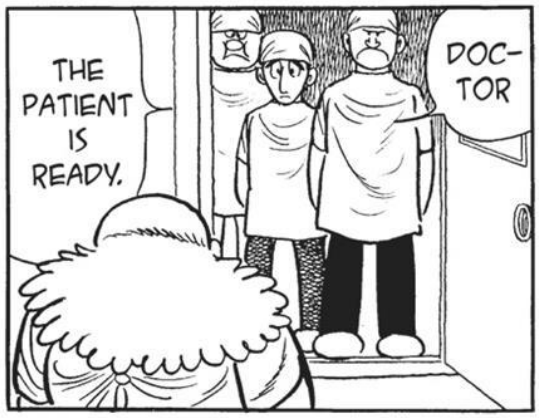
COME IN.
KNOCK
KNOCK

DON'T LET THEM GET TO YOU, DOCTOR.


THE OPERATION IS AT ONE. THE PATIENT WILL BE IN SOON.

AT YER SERVICE!
KONK
KONK

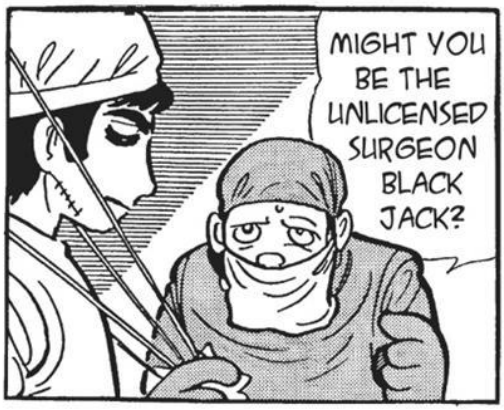
I CAN STILL WORK! I WON'T LET THEM MAKE A FOOL OUT OF ME.
I WON'T.


THE PATIENT IS READY.
DOC-TOR

WAIT!!

YOU KNOW I CAN BARELY SEE, YOU SHAMELESS WRETCH.

THE WHOLE STAFF IS HERE TODAY, TO LEARN FROM YOU ...


MIGHT YOU BE THE UNLICENSED SURGEON BLACK JACK?

YOU'RE NOT FROM THIS HOSPITAL, ARE YOU?
WHO ARE YOU?

YOU HAVE OUR MEDICAL STAFF HERE TO ASSIST YOU!
WHY USE HIM?!

I ASKED HIM TO ASSIST ME...

HE'S AN INFAMOUS BLACK-MARKET SURGEON.

YOU NEED TO STAY OUT OF THIS OPERATION, EXCUSE ME.

NOW THEN, SHALL WE BEGIN, DR. YAMADANO?
WHY ISN'T ANYONE HELPING ME?!
PLEASE BEGIN !!
SCALPEL

SHIK

C'MON, FELLAS. HELP THE DOCTOR, EH?
"CHUCKLE"

I CAN'T SEE WELL ...

TAMPO-NADE.

KO-CHER.

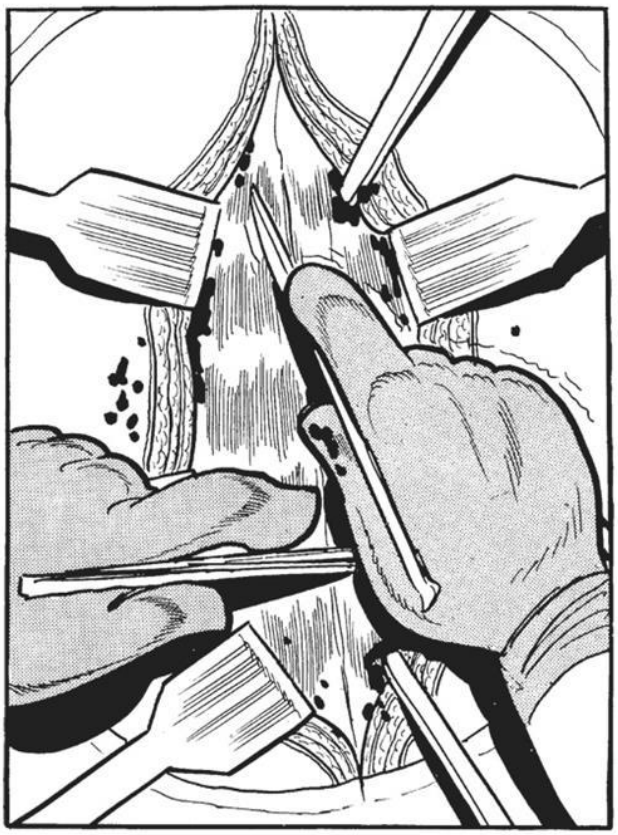
EVERYONE'S WATCHING. PLEASE PROCEED.
WHAT'S WRONG, DOCTOR? HEH HEH HEH

WIPE MY EYES, PLEASE.

I'LL LEAVE THIS TO YOU, DR. KUSAI. I...

DON'T PULL OUR LEGS.
WHAT WAS THAT ?

I... I CAN'T DO IT.



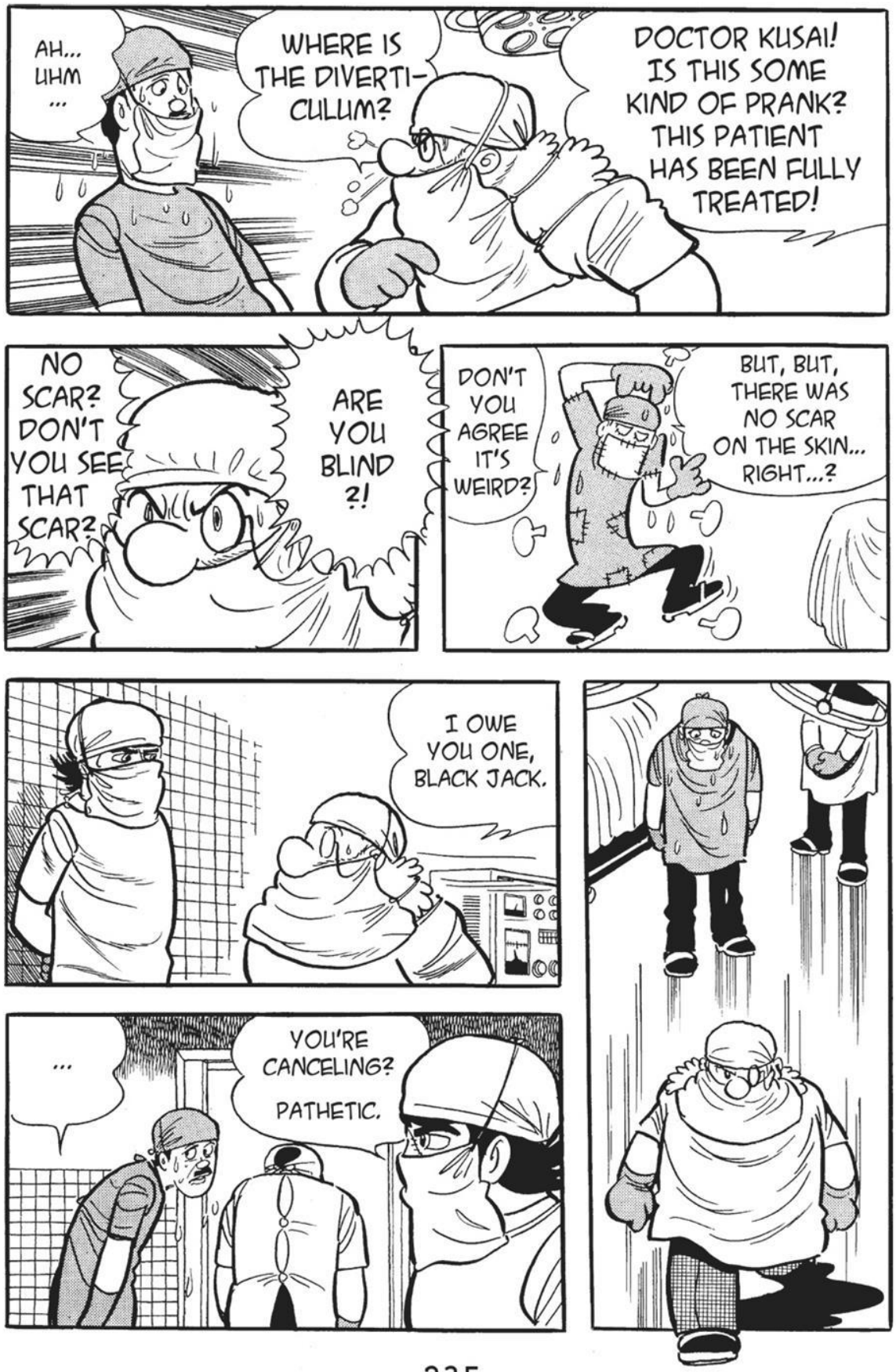
UH-UH, YOU'RE THE LEAD SURGEON TODAY!

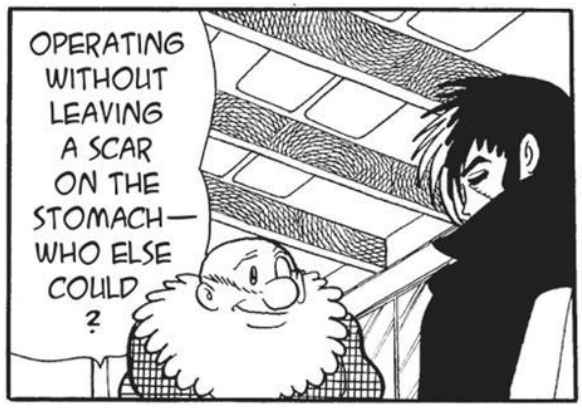
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?!

AH!

OH!

LOOK, A SUR-GICAL SCAR !!
IT'S NOT THERE !
THE MARK OF AN OP!
STILL, THE DIVERTICULUM HAS BEEN REMOVED!!
BUT THERE WAS NO POST-OP SCAR ON THE SKIN.
I-I CAN HARDLY BELIEVE MY EYES!
HOW COULD THIS BE?!
DOCTOR KUSAI, THIS IS A TRUE DISGRACE ...
W-WE'LL HAVE TO ASK THE PATIENT ABOUT THIS!
BUT THE X-RAY FROM 2 WEEKS AGO DID SHOW A DIVERTICULUM.
I FEEL LIKE WE'VE BEEN TRICKED BY SOME FOX!

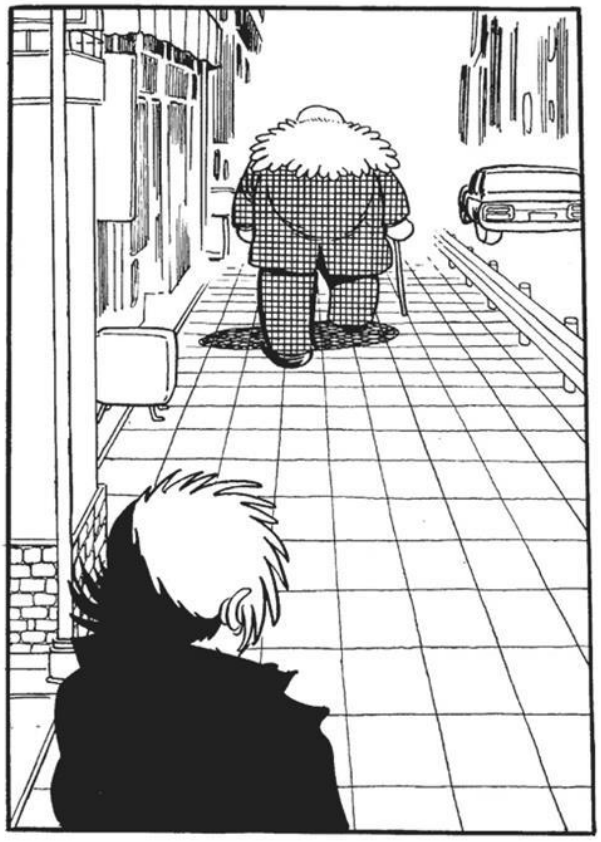

AH... UHM ...
WHERE IS THE DIVERTI-CULUM?
DOCTOR KUSAI! IS THIS SOME KIND OF PRANK? THIS PATIENT HAS BEEN FULLY TREATED!
NO SCAR? DON'T YOU SEE THAT SCAR?
ARE YOU BLIND ?!
DON'T YOU AGREE IT'S WEIRD?
BUT, BUT, THERE WAS NO SCAR ON THE SKIN... RIGHT...?
I OWE YOU ONE, BLACK JACK.
...
YOU'RE CANCELING? PATHETIC.


OPERATING WITHOUT LEAVING A SCAR ON THE STOMACH— WHO ELSE COULD ?

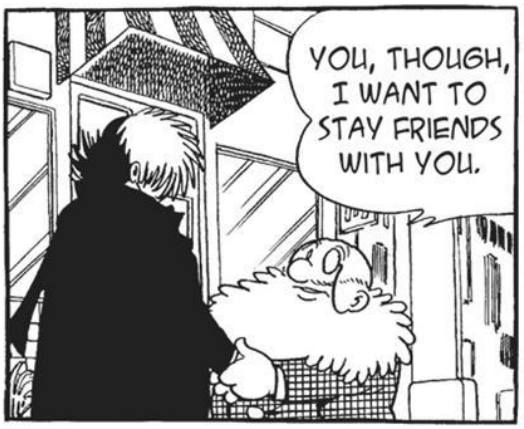
THANKS TO YOU, I CAN RETIRE WITH A CLEAN RECORD.
RE-TIRE ?

IT DID MAKE ME NERVOUS ...

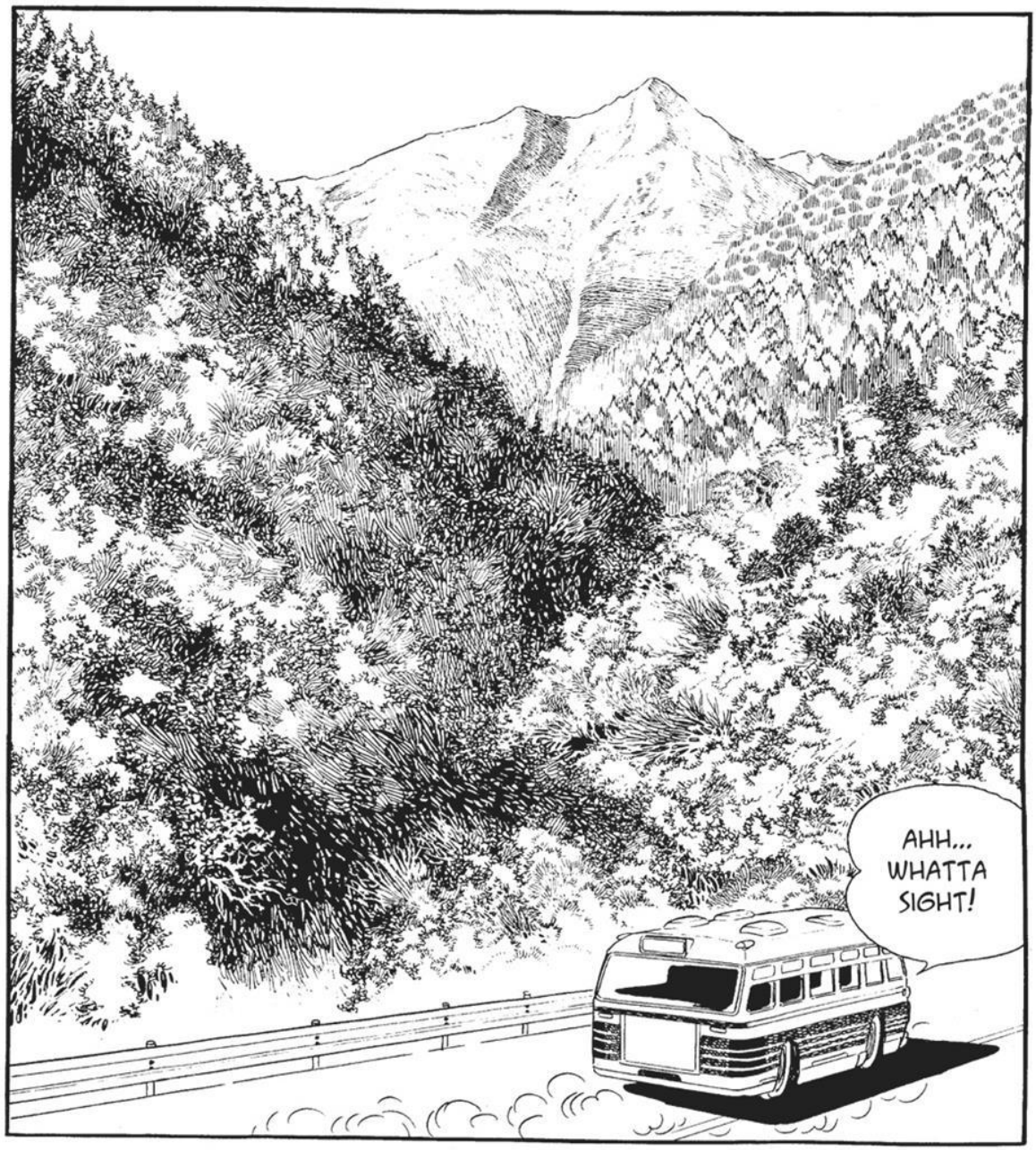
AND TWO WEEKS AHEAD OF TIME, TOO, IN SECRET.

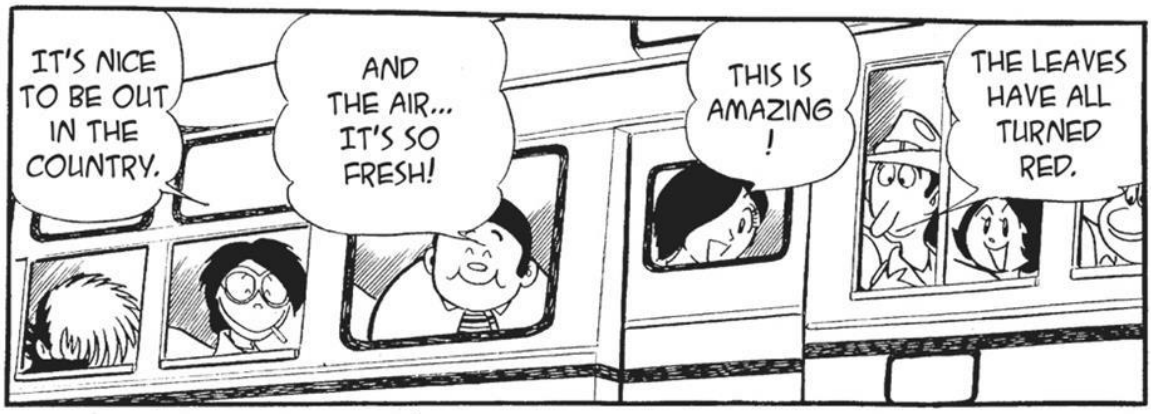


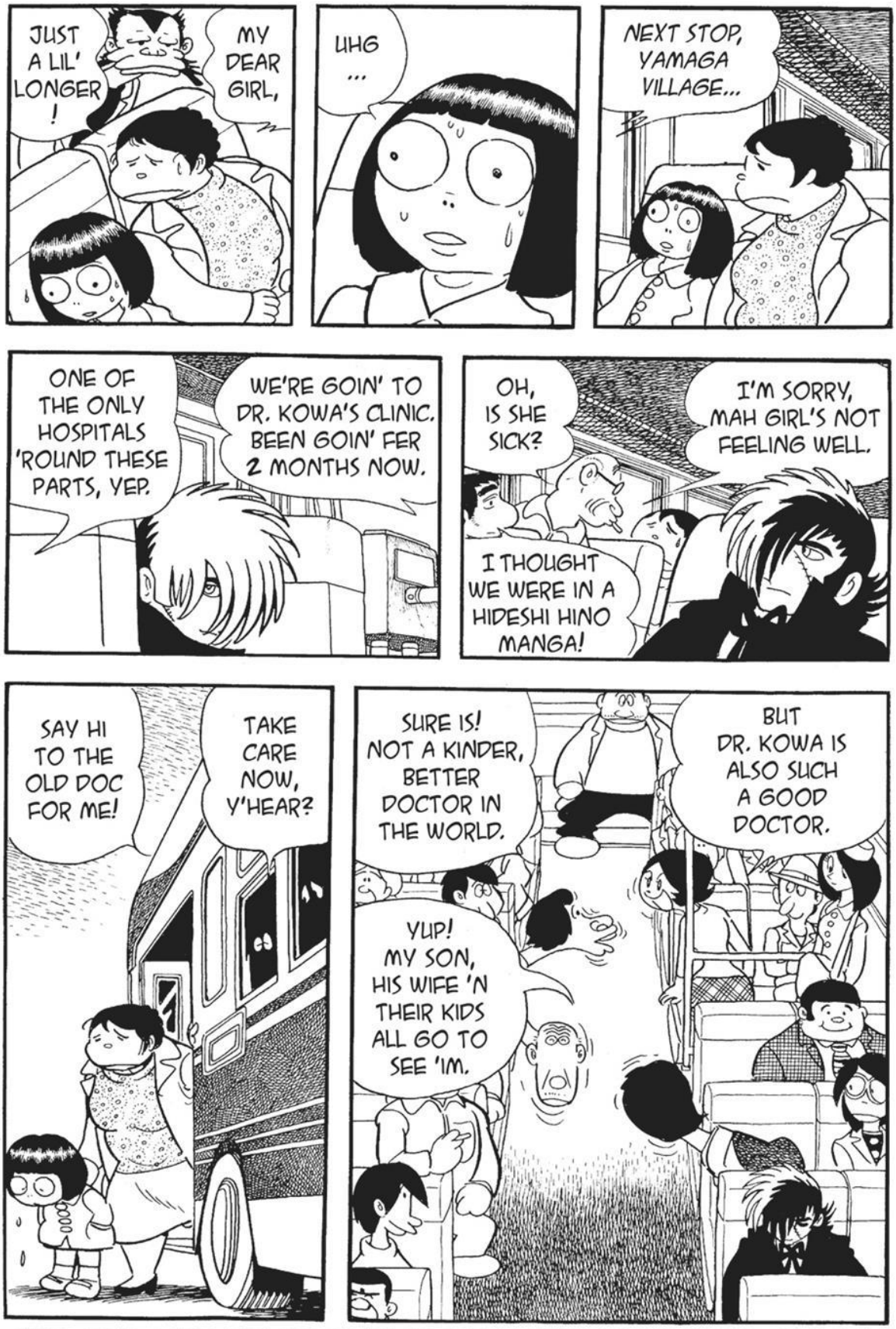
BUT HOW CAN I, AMONG UGLY SOULS LIKE KUSAI ?
UNTIL THIS HAPPENED, I MEANT TO KEEP ON PRACTICING.


YOU, THOUGH, I WANT TO STAY FRIENDS WITH YOU.

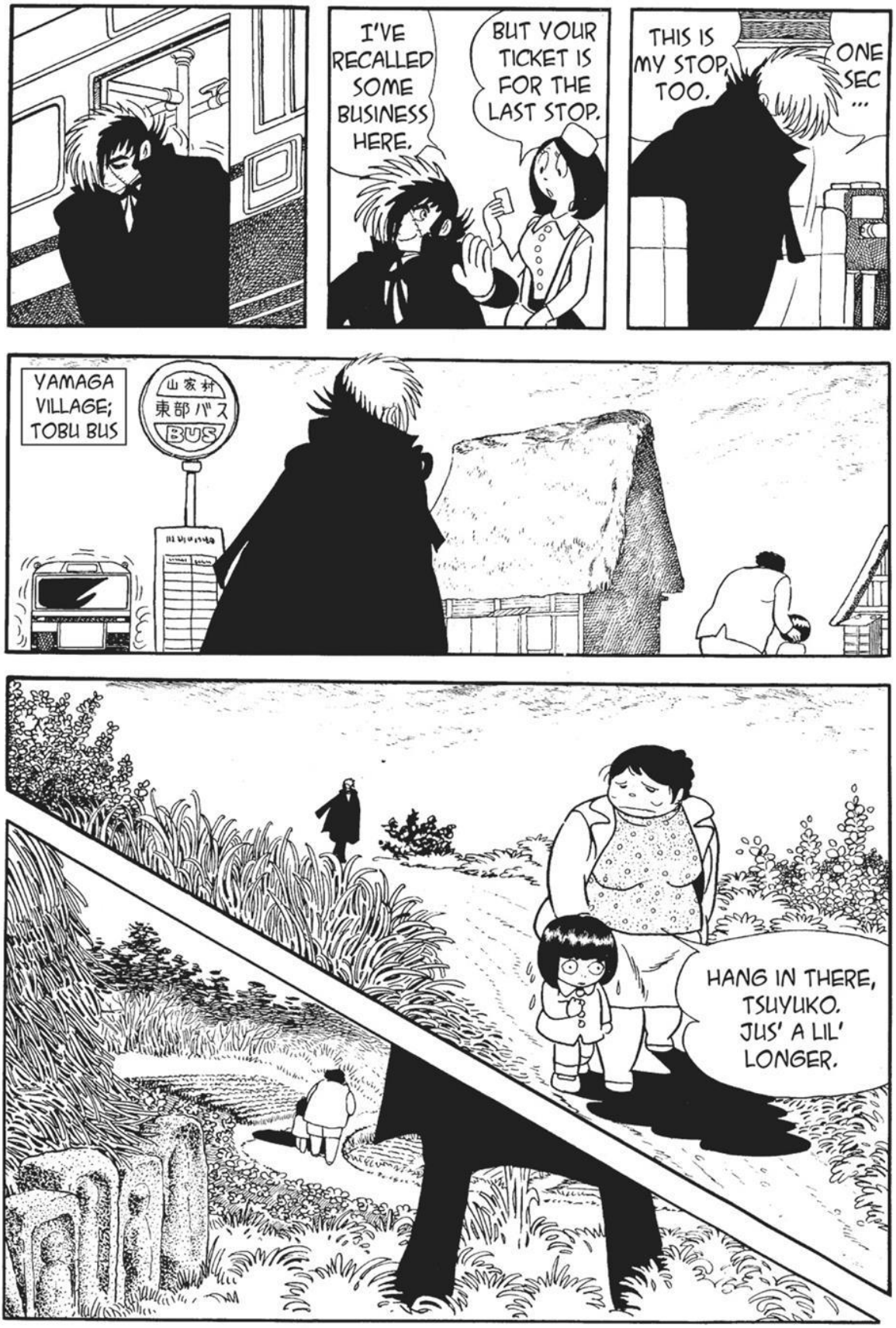
# COUNTRY CLINIC

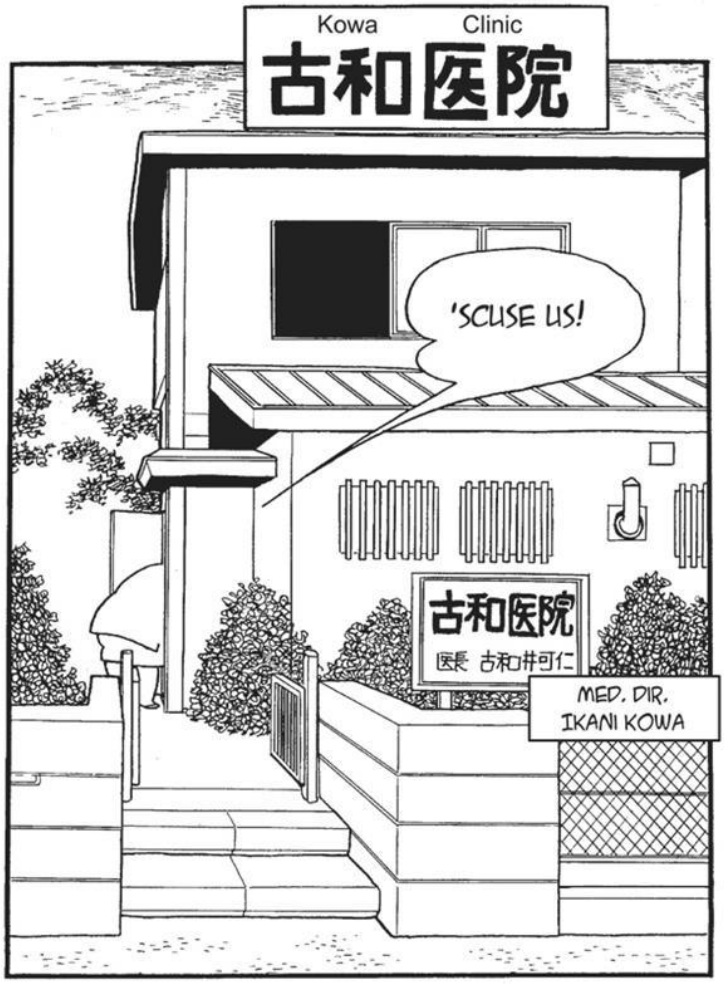

AHH... WHATTA SIGHT!


IT'S NICE TO BE OUT IN THE COUNTRY.
AND THE AIR... IT'S SO FRESH!
THIS IS AMAZING !
THE LEAVES HAVE ALL TURNED RED.




NOTE: HIDESHI HINO MANGA ARE DARKLY HUMOROUS MASTERPIECES OF HORROR. KOWA CLINIC ("KOWA IIN") PUNS ON "KOWAI" OR *SCARY*.


I'VE RECALLED SOME BUSINESS HERE.
BUT YOUR TICKET IS FOR THE LAST STOP.
THIS IS MY STOP, TOO.
ONE SEC ...
YAMAGA VILLAGE; TOBU BUS
山家村
東部バス
BUS
HANG IN THERE, TSUYUKO. JUS' A LIL' LONGER.


Kowa Clinic
古和医院
'SCUSE US!
古和医院
医長 古和井可仁
MED. DIR.
IKANI KOWA

THANKEE ALWAYS, DOCTOR.
AH HA, MRS. YAMADA!
HOW IS YOUR DAUGHTER? IS SHE DOIN' ANY BETTER?
WAIT JUS' A FEW MINUTES.

NEXT PLEASE!

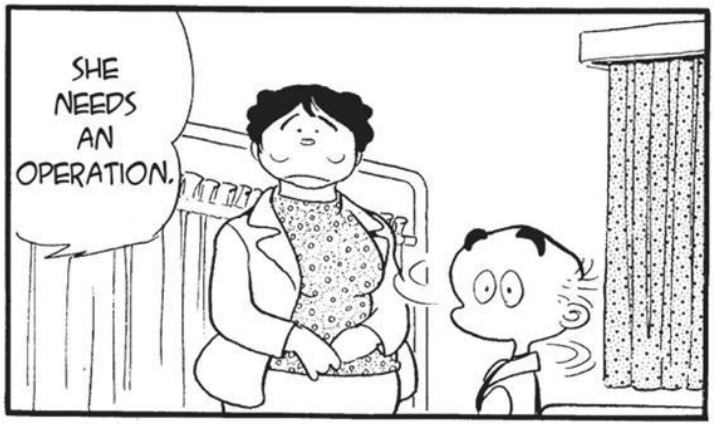
OKAY, THE MEDICINE SEEMS T'BE WORKIN'. SO YOUR THROAT'S FEELING BETTER?
NOPE, REST'N TAKE YOUR MEDS FOR ANOTHER WEEK.
CAN I GO BACK T'WORK IN THE FIELDS?
'TIS, 'TIS, DOC.
...
THANKS SO MUCH, THANKS SO MUCH.
NEXT !

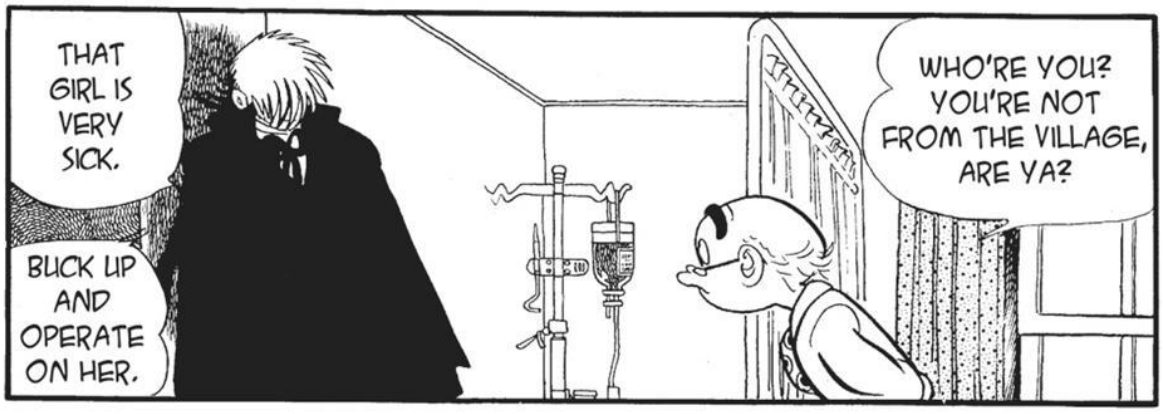
OKAY, FINALLY IT'S YOUR TURN. COME ON IN.

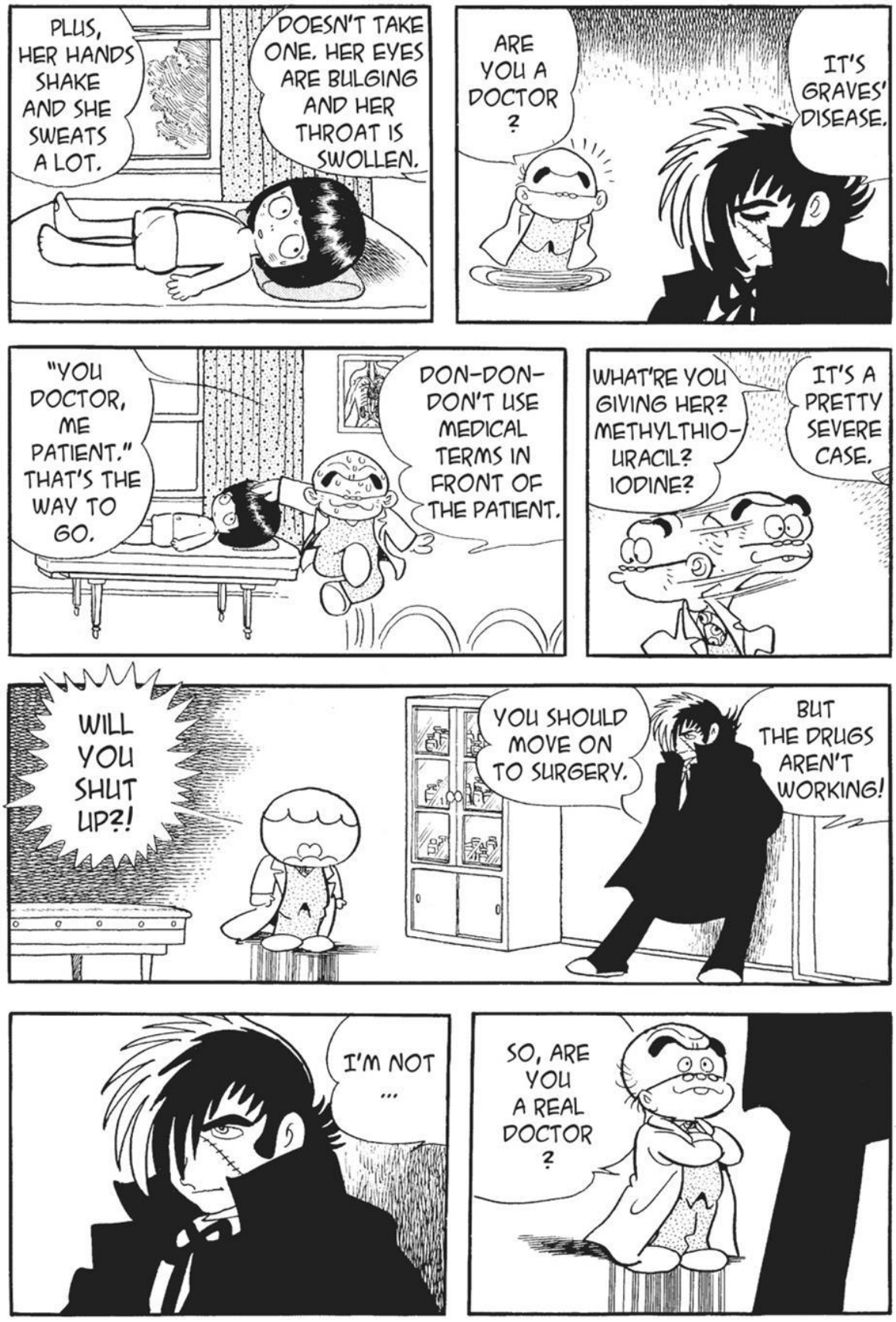
SHARP GAZE... A PLAIN-CLOTHES?
THERE'S A STRANGE FELLA OUT THERE.

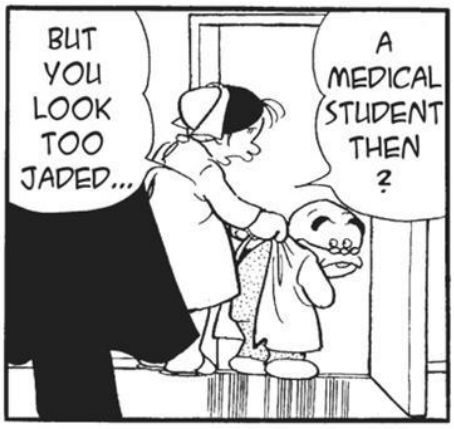
DON'T WORRY, MY MEDICINE IS THE BEST IN JAPAN.
OR MAYBE SHE'S GETTIN' TOO MUCH 'N IT'S POISONED HER?

SHE'S GOTTEN SO SKINNY... HER HANDS SHAKE AND SHE SWEATS AT NIGHT AND CAN'T SLEEP NONE.
HMM. I GUESS SHE NEEDS MORE MEDICINE.

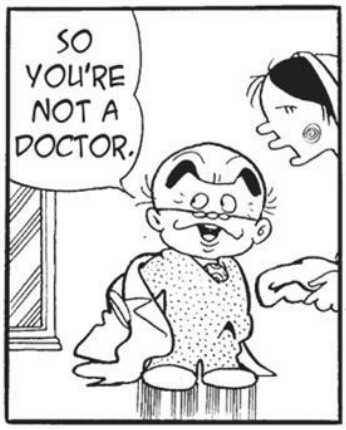

SHE NEEDS AN OPERATION.


THAT GIRL IS VERY SICK.
BUCK UP AND OPERATE ON HER.
WHO'RE YOU? YOU'RE NOT FROM THE VILLAGE, ARE YA?

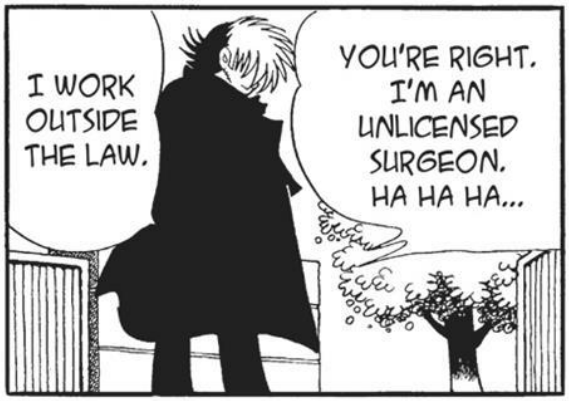

PLUS, HER HANDS SHAKE AND SHE SWEATS A LOT.
DOESN'T TAKE ONE. HER EYES ARE BULGING AND HER THROAT IS SWOLLEN.
ARE YOU A DOCTOR ?
IT'S GRAVES' DISEASE.
"YOU DOCTOR, ME PATIENT." THAT'S THE WAY TO GO.
DON-DON-DON'T USE MEDICAL TERMS IN FRONT OF THE PATIENT.
WHAT'RE YOU GIVING HER? METHYLTHIO-URACIL? IODINE?
IT'S A PRETTY SEVERE CASE.
WILL YOU SHUT UP?!
YOU SHOULD MOVE ON TO SURGERY.
BUT THE DRUGS AREN'T WORKING!
I'M NOT ...
SO, ARE YOU A REAL DOCTOR ?

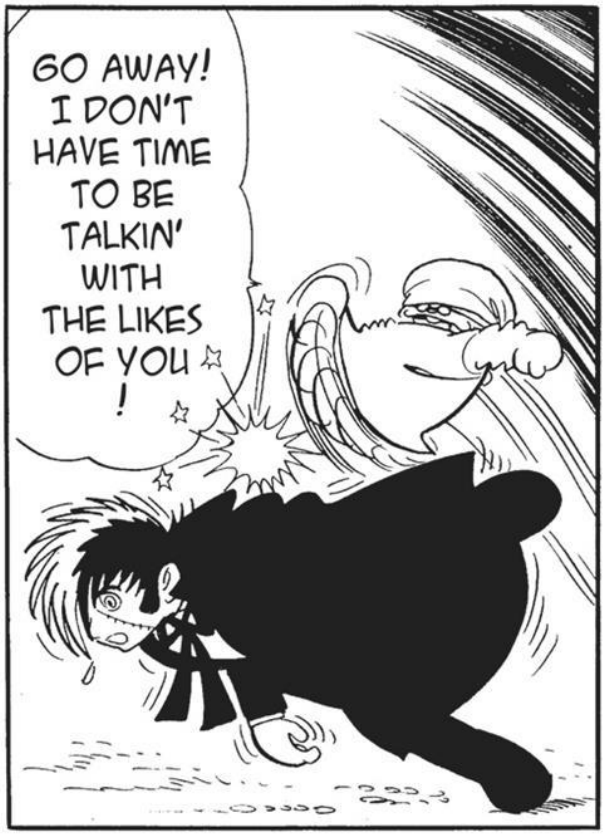

BUT YOU LOOK TOO JADED...
A MEDICAL STUDENT THEN ?

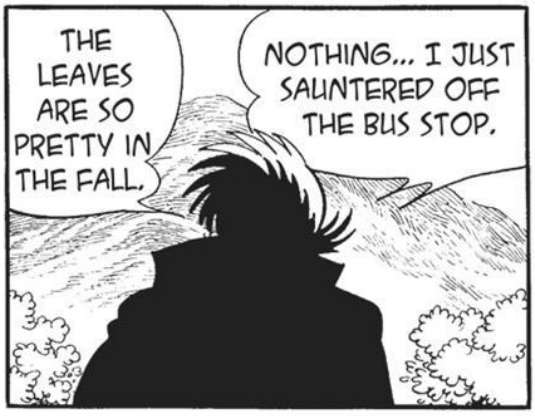
THAT'S NOT TRUE EITHER.

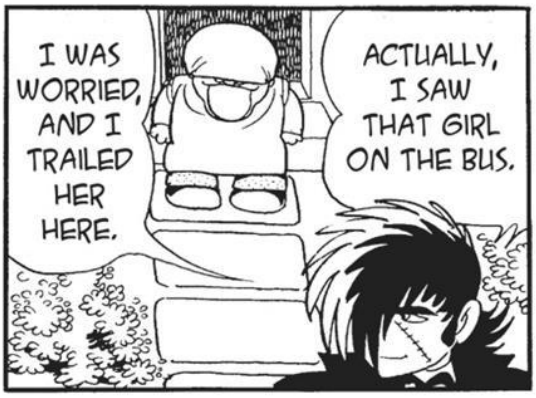

SO YOU'RE NOT A DOCTOR.

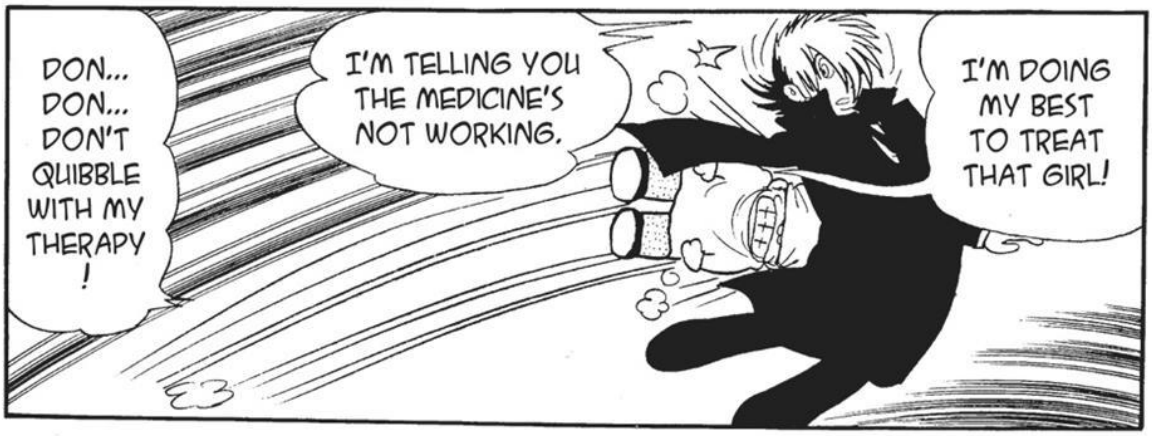
AND WHAT ARE YA DOING HERE ?
YOU DON'T SAY.


I WORK OUTSIDE THE LAW.
YOU'RE RIGHT. I'M AN UNLICENSED SURGEON. HA HA HA...

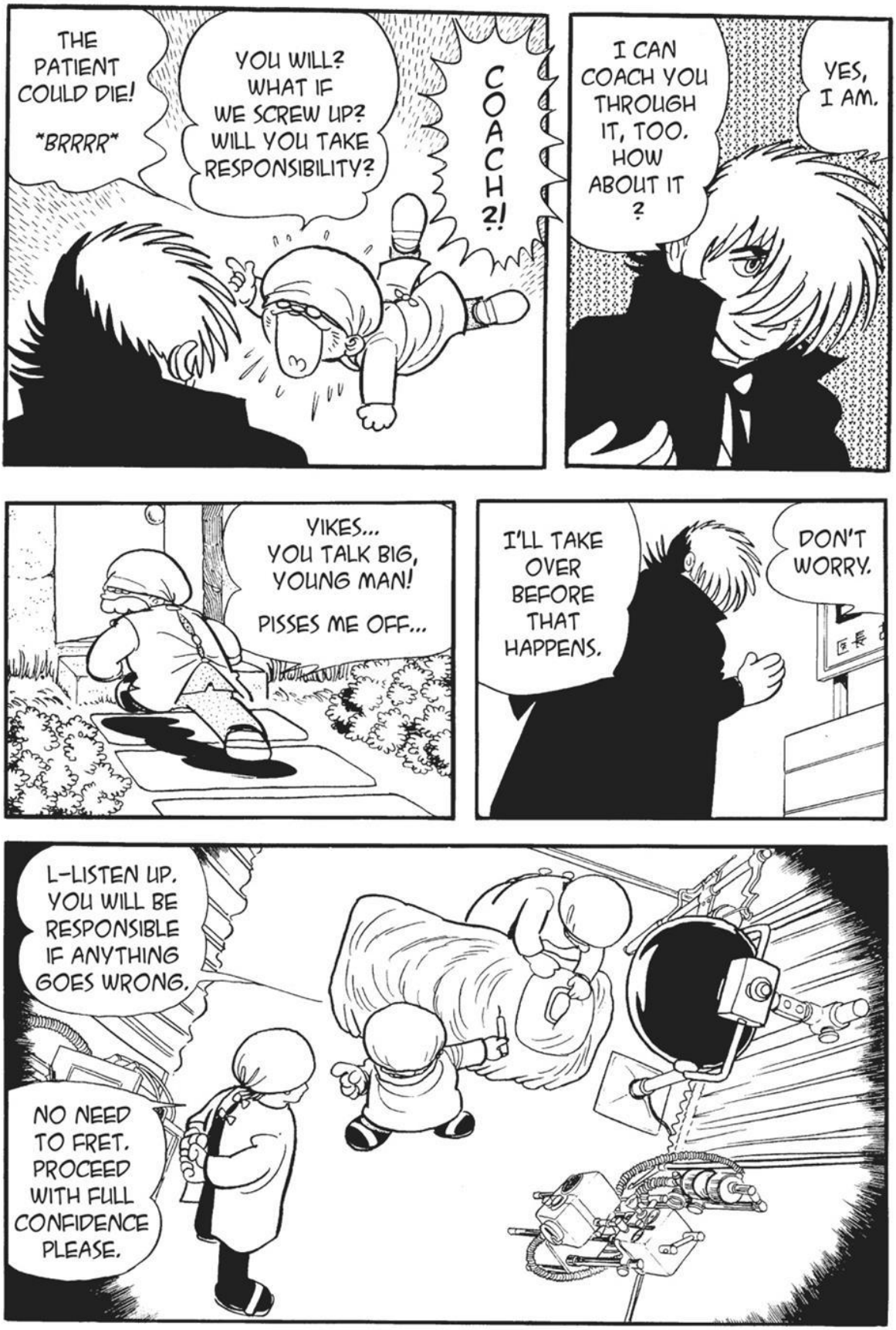

GO AWAY! I DON'T HAVE TIME TO BE TALKIN' WITH THE LIKES OF YOU !


THE LEAVES ARE SO PRETTY IN THE FALL.
NOTHING... I JUST SAUNTERED OFF THE BUS STOP.


I WAS WORRIED, AND I TRAILED HER HERE.
ACTUALLY, I SAW THAT GIRL ON THE BUS.




IT MAINLY AFFECTS YOUNG WOMEN. THE EYES BULGE, THE THROAT SWELLS AND THE PULSE RACES. VICTIMS BECOME EASILY AGITATED, SWEAT A GREAT DEAL AND LOSE THEIR HAIR. THEY ARE CONSTANTLY HUNGRY. THE DISEASE CAN OCCASIONALLY BE CURED WITH MEDICINE, BUT AN OPERATION TO REMOVE THE THYROID GLAND IS NECESSARY WITH A SEVERE CONDITION.


THE PATIENT COULD DIE!
"BRRRR"
YOU WILL? WHAT IF WE SCREW UP? WILL YOU TAKE RESPONSIBILITY?
COACH?!
I CAN COACH YOU THROUGH IT, TOO. HOW ABOUT IT ?
YES, I AM.
YIKES... YOU TALK BIG, YOUNG MAN!
PISSES ME OFF...
I'LL TAKE OVER BEFORE THAT HAPPENS.
DON'T WORRY.
L-LISTEN UP. YOU WILL BE RESPONSIBLE IF ANYTHING GOES WRONG.
NO NEED TO FRET. PROCEED WITH FULL CONFIDENCE PLEASE.

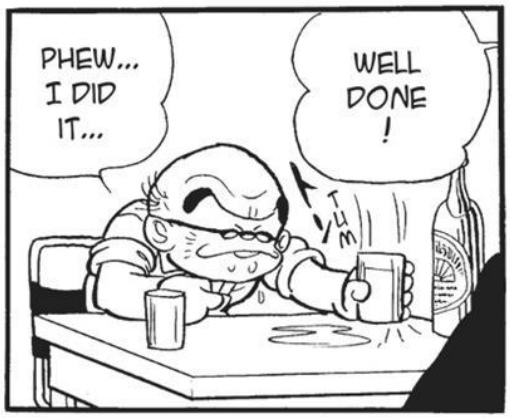
THAT WAS EASY.
I-I'VE REMOVED AN APPEN-DIX!
IF I MAY ASK, HOW MUCH SURGICAL EXPERIENCE DO YOU HAVE?
YES, CUT RIGHT THERE.
DOCTOR, YER HANDS ARE SHAKIN' LIKE LEAVES...
HURRY UP, NOW!
FOR CEPS !!
JOLT
CAREFUL WITH THE RECUR-RENT LARYNGEAL NERVE!
'COURSE THEY ARE. ANYONE WOULD BE NERVOUS.
TOO LATE, I CUT HER OPEN. WHAT'LL BE WILL BE.
WHY DONCHA STOP ?

HURRY, NOW.
FOR-CEPS.
FORCEPS, QUICK!

NICE

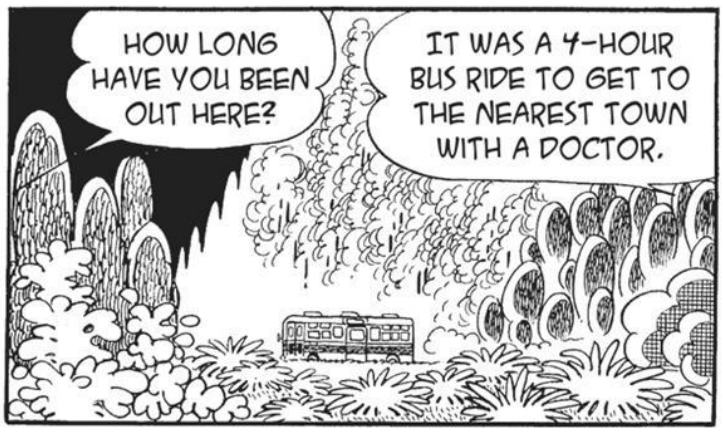
LEAVE IT BE!
LEMME WIPE YA.
LOOK AT THAT SWEAT.

NOPE. I'M THE ONLY ONE. BEFORE I CAME, THEY DIDN'T HAVE ONE.
ARE THERE NO OTHER DOCTORS AROUND HERE?

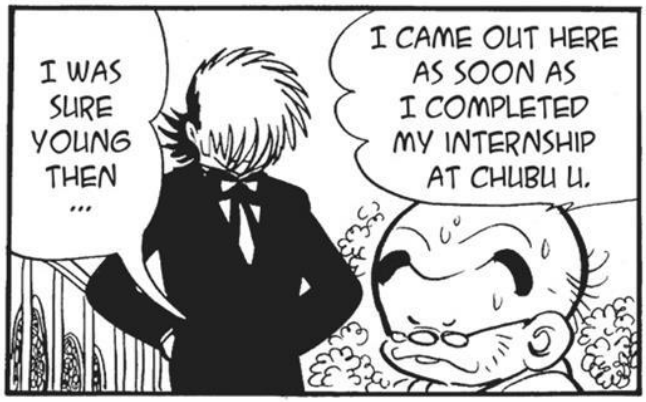

PHEW... I DID IT...
WELL DONE!
THUM

A ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME MAJOR OPERA-TION!

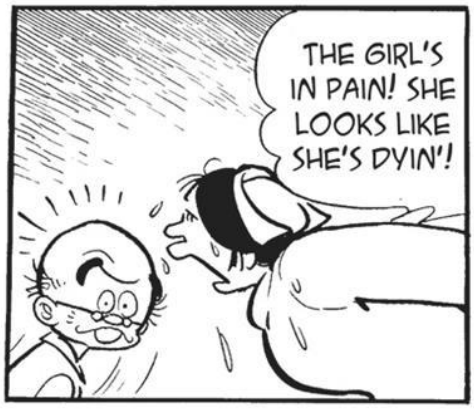
SINCE DURING THE WAR. 30-ODD YEARS.


HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN OUT HERE?
IT WAS A 4-HOUR BUS RIDE TO GET TO THE NEAREST TOWN WITH A DOCTOR.

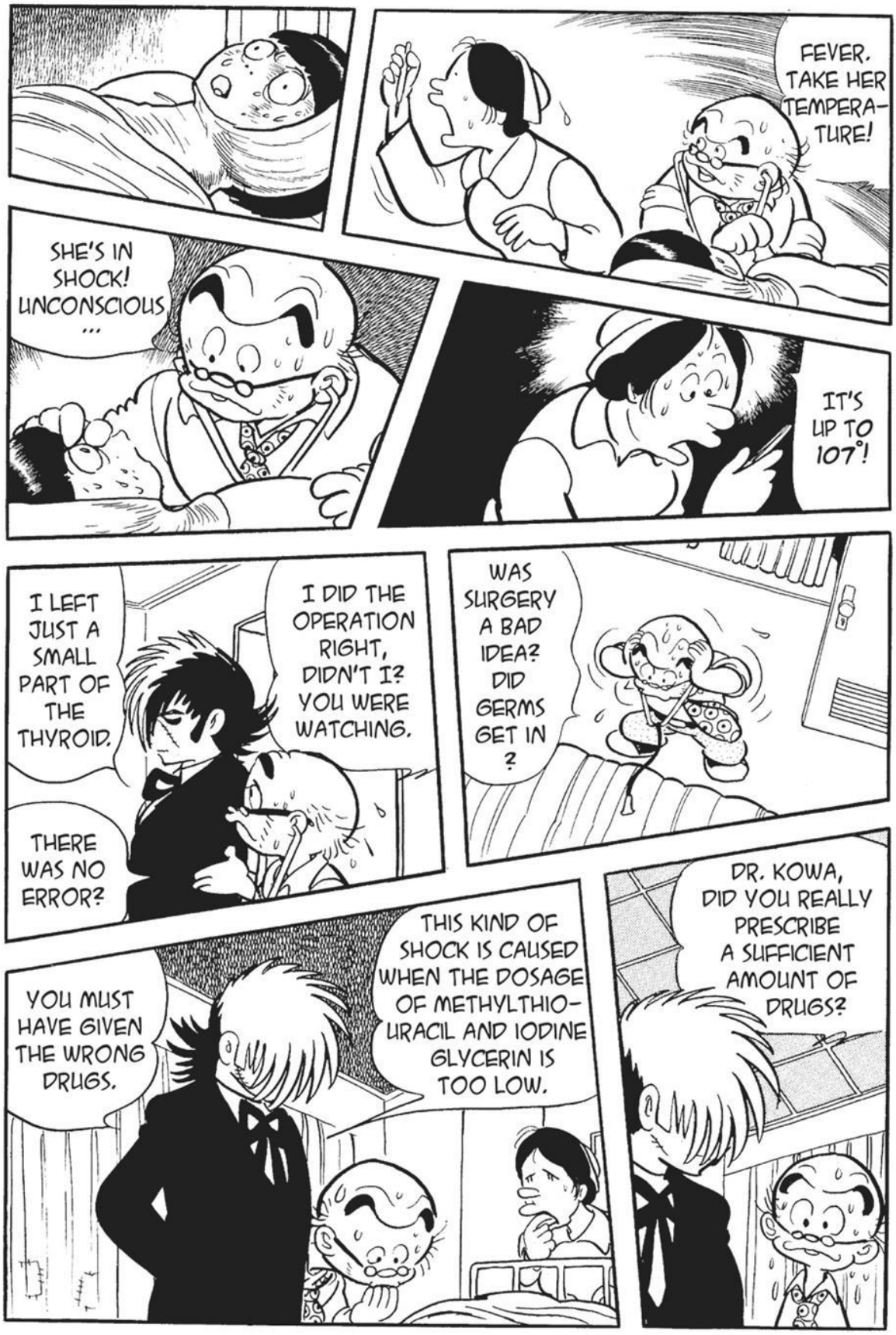
DOCTOR!!


I WAS SURE YOUNG THEN ...
I CAME OUT HERE AS SOON AS I COMPLETED MY INTERNSHIP AT CHUBU U.

UHH...
UHH...


THE GIRL'S IN PAIN! SHE LOOKS LIKE SHE'S DYIN'!

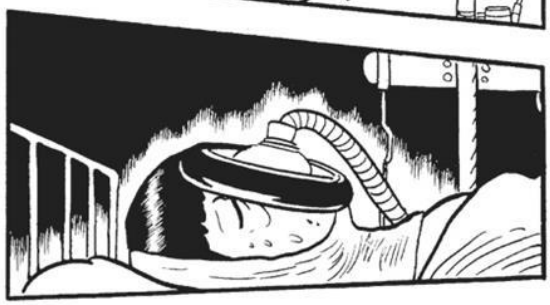
WH-WHAT'S GOING ON?


FEVER. TAKE HER TEMPERA-TURE!
SHE'S IN SHOCK! UNCONSCIOUS ...
IT'S UP TO 107°!
I LEFT JUST A SMALL PART OF THE THYROID.
I DID THE OPERATION RIGHT, DIDN'T I? YOU WERE WATCHING.
THERE WAS NO ERROR?
WAS SURGERY A BAD IDEA? DID GERMS GET IN ?
YOU MUST HAVE GIVEN THE WRONG DRUGS.
THIS KIND OF SHOCK IS CAUSED WHEN THE DOSAGE OF METHYLTHIO-URACIL AND IODINE GLYCERIN IS TOO LOW.
DR. KOWA, DID YOU REALLY PRESCRIBE A SUFFICIENT AMOUNT OF DRUGS?

PLEASE HELP ME!
I HELPED WITH THE OP. I'M NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR PRIOR TREATMENT.
IF YOU KNOW, TELL ME.
WH-WHAT SHOULD I DO?
INJECT HER WITH A SEDATIVE AND SOME ADRENAL HORMONES!
I'LL LOOK IT UP!
BE THAT WAY!
OH, FINE!
IODINE
DO WE HAVE ADRENAL HORMONES?
RECTAL INJEC-TION.
IODINE, IODINE, IODINE.

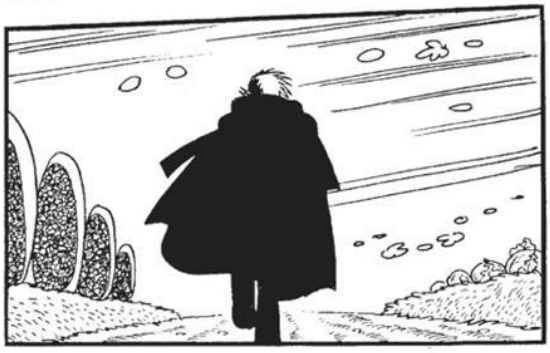
WAIT !

NOW GIVE HER OXYGEN ...



PLACE AN ICE PACK AGAINST HER CHEST.

CONTINUE TO ADMINISTER IODINE.
MAKE SURE SHE DOESN'T HAVE ANY TETANY SPASMS.
SO LONG.



WON'T YOU TELL ME YOUR NAME?

YOU CAN'T JUST LEAVE LIKE THAT.
WHERE'S THE FIRE? THERE'S NO RUSH.

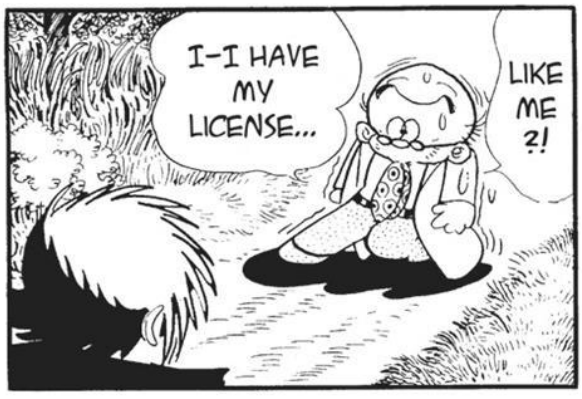
THAT WON'T DO FOR ME!
BETTER IF WE FORGET THIS.

JUST LIKE YOU!

NO, LIKE I SAID, I PRACTICE ILLEGALLY.

YOU MUST BE A PROPER DOCTOR.
YOU CAN'T REALLY BE UNLICENSED.

YOU'RE JUST LIKE ME.
YOU DO NOT

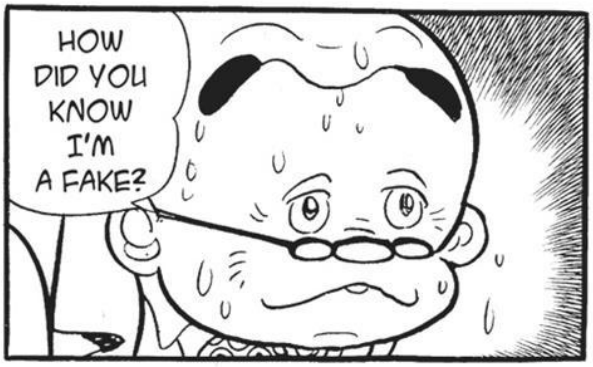

I-I HAVE MY LICENSE...
LIKE ME ?!

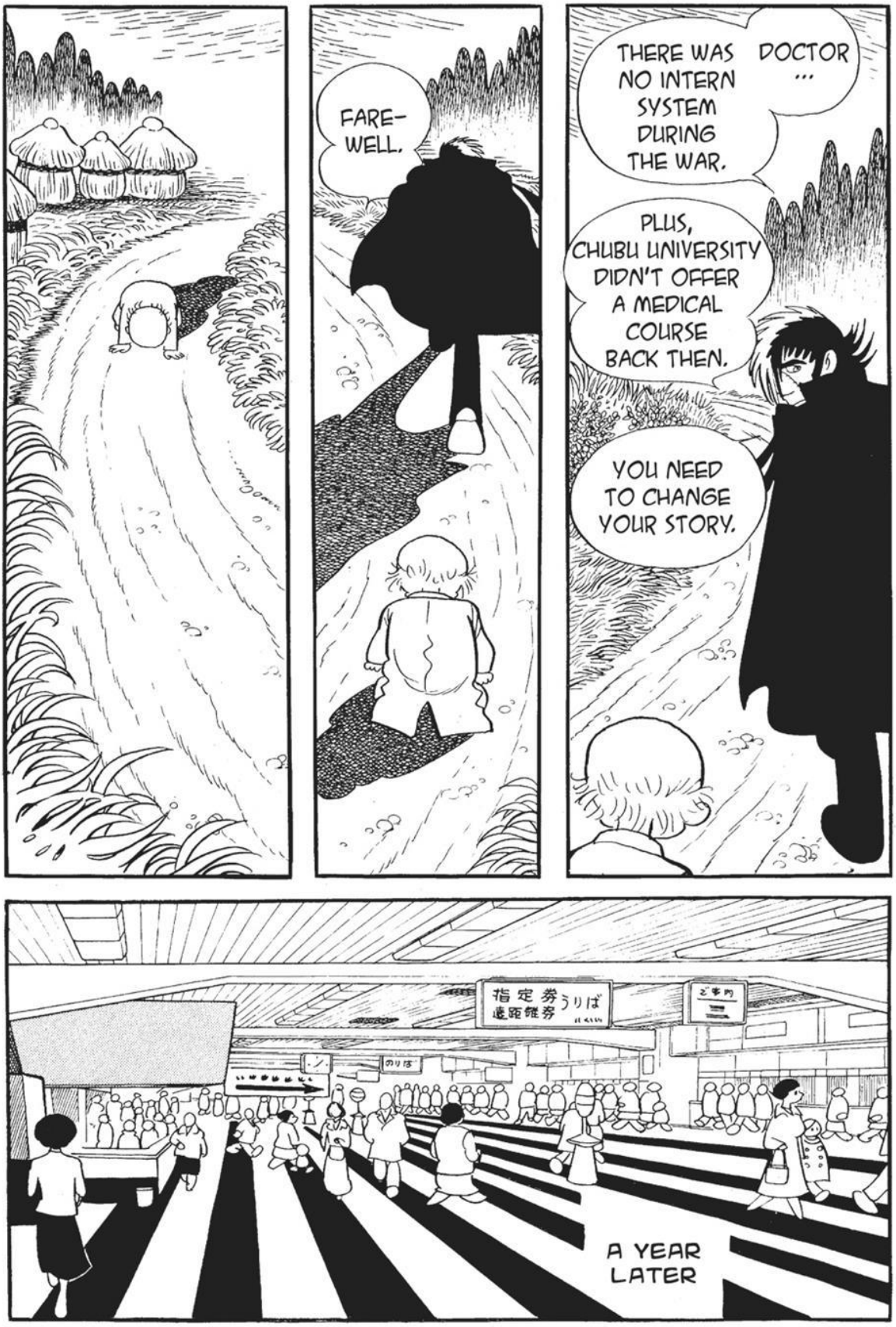
AND HAVE EARNED THE VILLAGERS' HEARTFELT RESPECT.
YOU'VE PRACTICED OUT HERE FOR OVER 30 YEARS

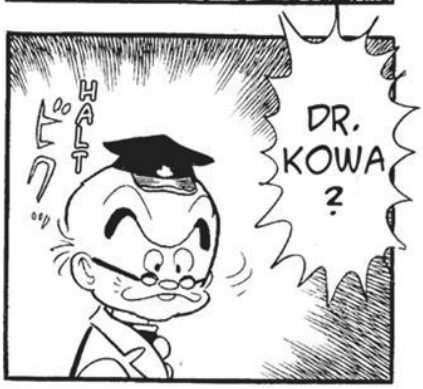
...

BUT I ADMIRE YOU, DOCTOR.

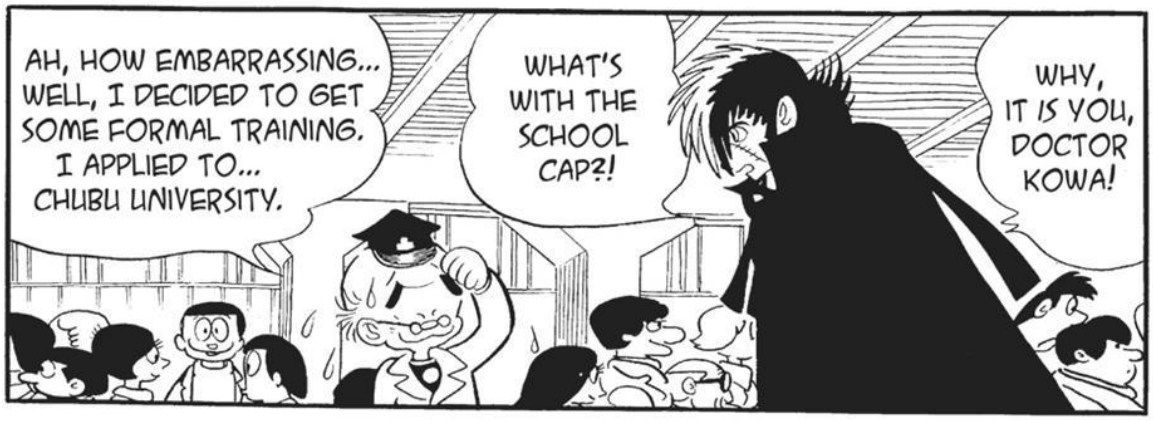
THAT'S WHY I HELPED WITH THE OPERATION.
I LIKE YOU, DOCTOR. HA HA HA...

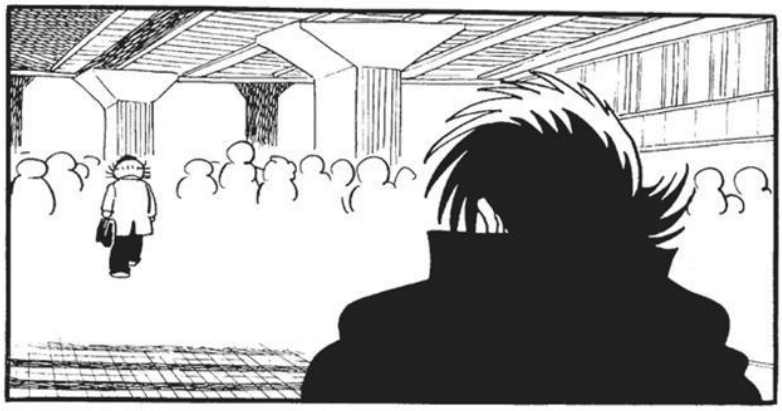

HOW DID YOU KNOW I'M A FAKE?


FARE-WELL.
DOCTOR ...
THERE WAS NO INTERN SYSTEM DURING THE WAR.
PLUS, CHUBU UNIVERSITY DIDN'T OFFER A MEDICAL COURSE BACK THEN.
YOU NEED TO CHANGE YOUR STORY.
指定券うりば
遠距離券
A YEAR LATER


HALT
DR. KOWA ?

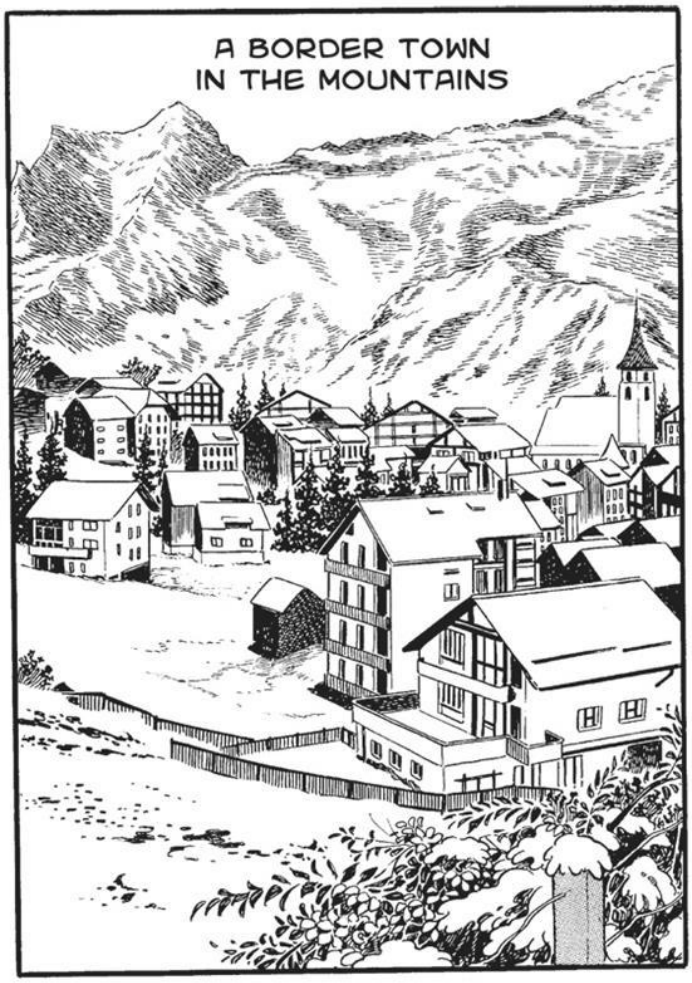
HISS


AH, HOW EMBARRASSING... WELL, I DECIDED TO GET SOME FORMAL TRAINING. I APPLIED TO... CHUBU UNIVERSITY.
WHAT'S WITH THE SCHOOL CAP?!
WHY, IT IS YOU, DOCTOR KOWA!



AN OLD DOG CAN LEARN NEW TRICKS!

# WOLF GIRL

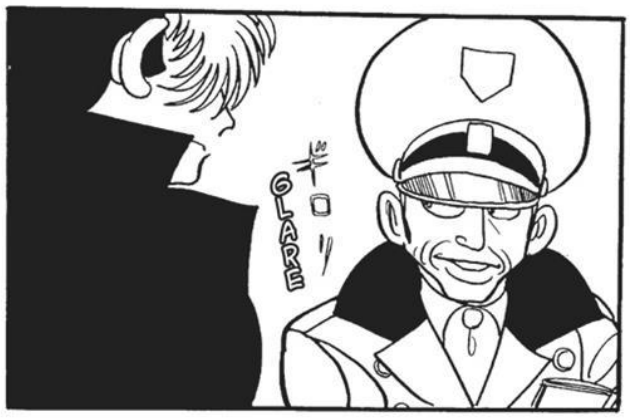


NOTE: THE SIGNS IN THE 2ND PANEL SAY "DUNNO WHICH COUNTRY" AND "TAKE YOUR PICK."

THE TRANS-BORDER BUS IS LEAVING!

OH, PLEASE ...
WITH THE WEATHER THIS BAD I EXPECT TO SEE A SNOWMAN, TOO.

HAVE YOUR PASSPORTS READY!

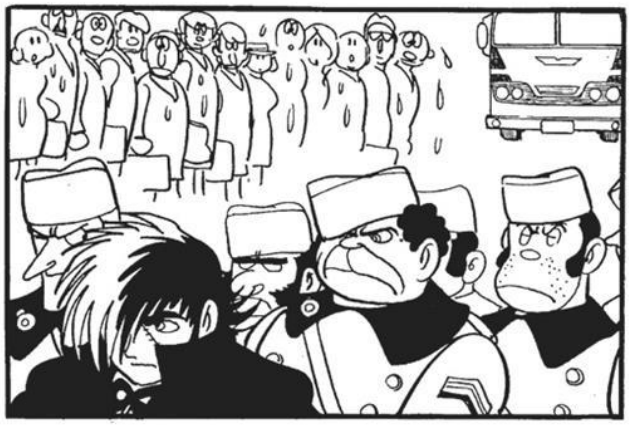

GLARE

YES. THAT'S WHY I'M IN THIS COUNTRY.
DR. BLACK JACK, YOU OPERATED ON THE POLITBURO MEMBER TOPSY TURVY, DID YOU NOT?

YES, HE HAS FLED THIS COUNTRY ...
IS THAT TRUE ?!

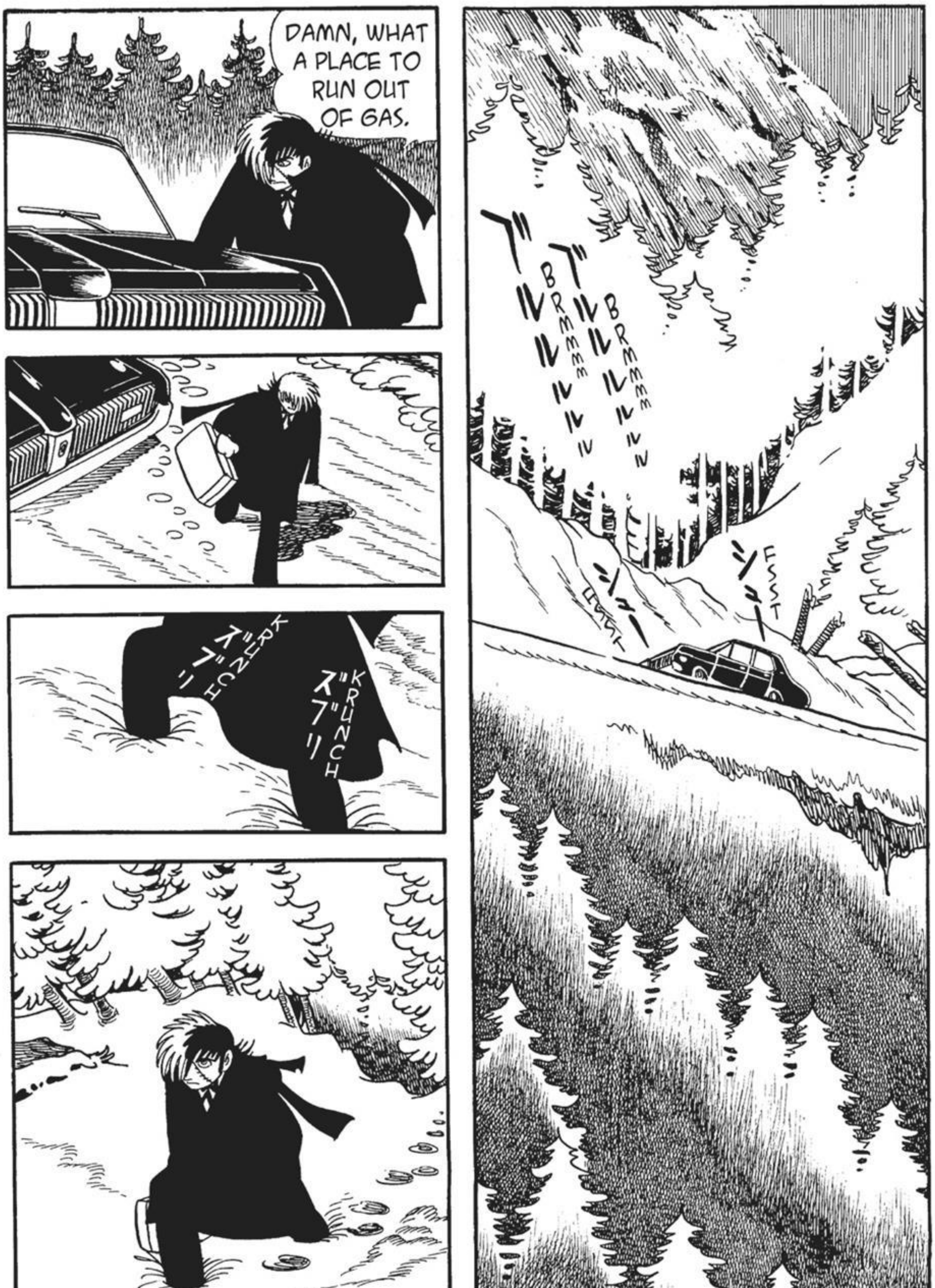
TOPSY TURVY DEFECTED FROM THE HOMELAND RIGHT AFTER YOU OPERATED ON HIM.

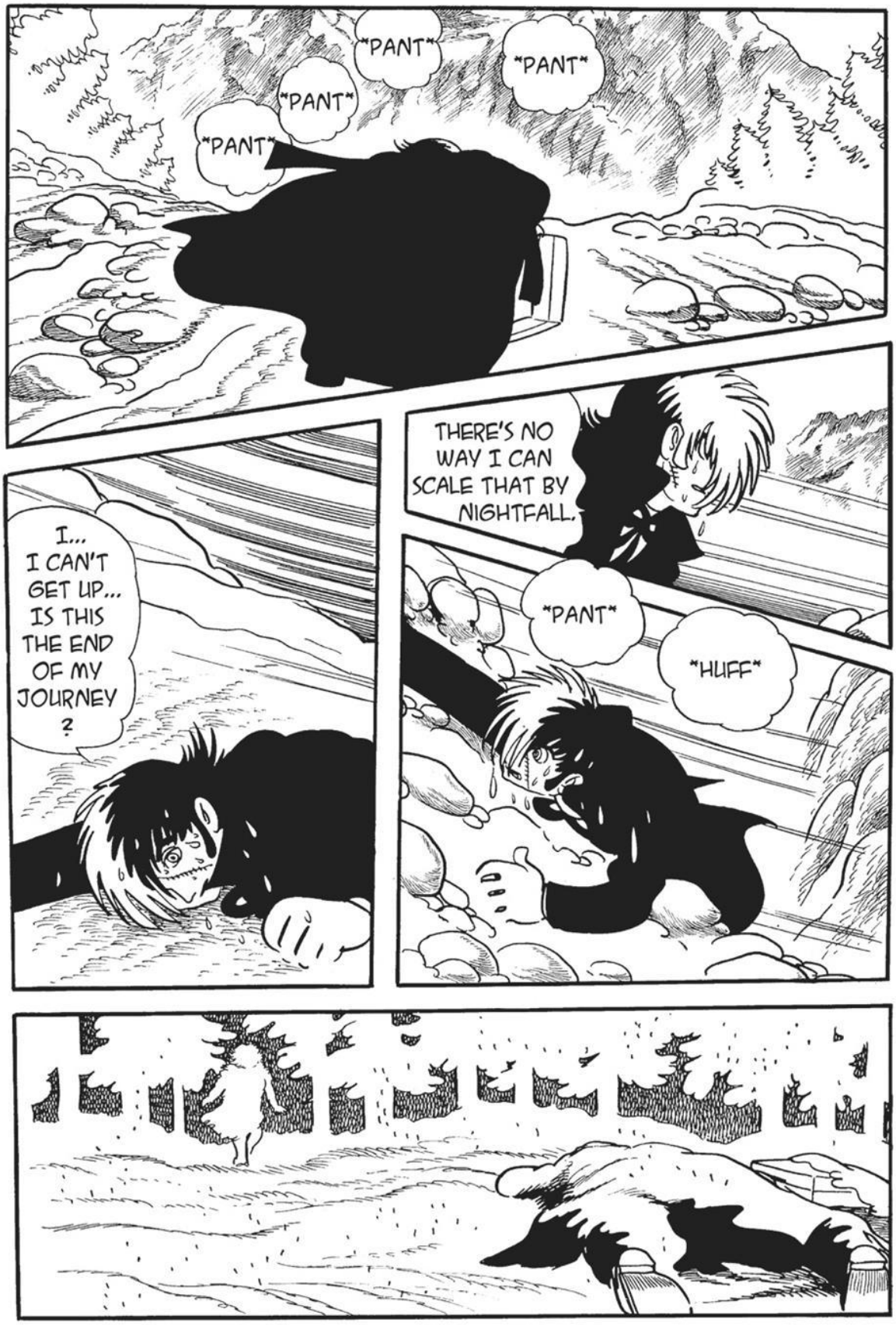
SORRY, BUT WE'LL HAVE TO ARREST YOU.



WHAT? IT HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH ME !
HE'S A TRAITOR TO OUR NATION. AND YOU ARE HIS ACCOMPLICE. COME WITH US.

I CAN'T SEE!
ACK!
PSSSSS
DAN!
RAT TAT TAT TAT


DAMN, WHAT A PLACE TO RUN OUT OF GAS.
KRUNCH
KRUNCH
BRMMMM
BRMMMM
FSST


"PANT"
"PANT"
"PANT"
"PANT"
THERE'S NO WAY I CAN SCALE THAT BY NIGHTFALL.
I... I CAN'T GET UP... IS THIS THE END OF MY JOURNEY ?
"PANT"
"HUFF"

PANT
PANT
THANKS, YOU SAVED MY LIFE.
WON'T YOU FACE THIS WAY?

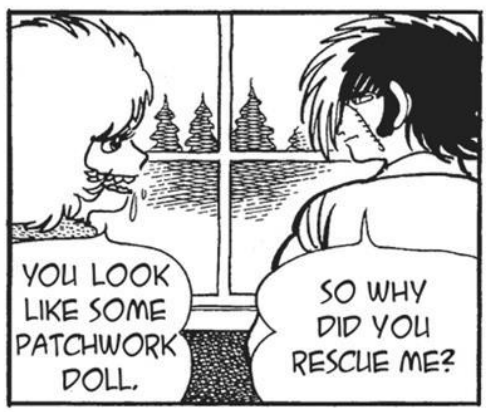
MY NAME IS REIKA, BUT EVERYONE CALLS ME WOLF GIRL.
YOU HAVE WOLFS-RACHEN.

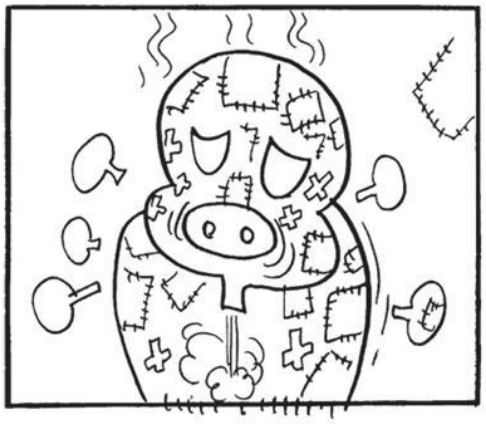
WHY, DO YOU WANT TO LOSE YOUR APPETITE ?

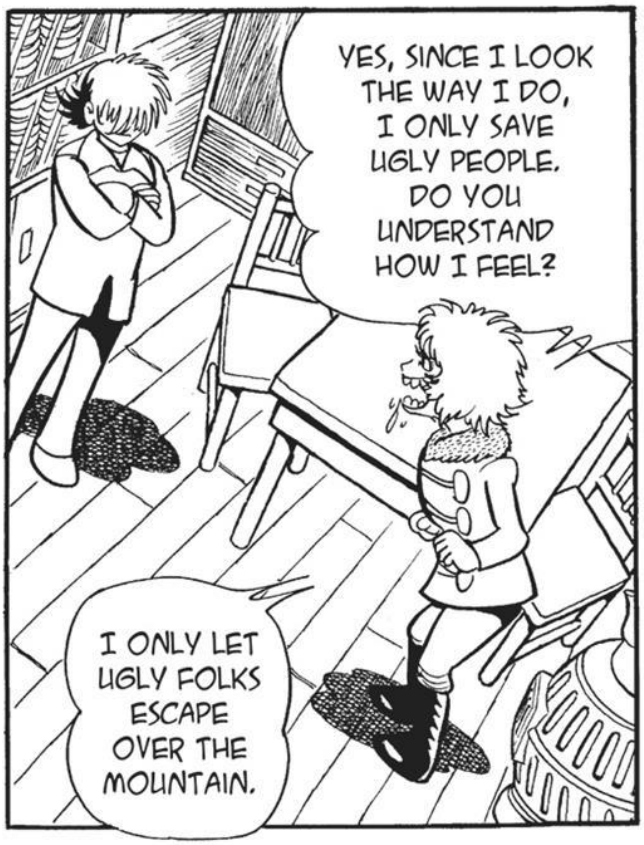
IN WHAT ARE RARE CASES, HOWEVER, THIS FUSION DOES NOT OCCUR. THE CLEFT CAN BE IN JUST THE LIPS OR INCLUDE THE PALATE. *WOLFSRACHEN* IS GERMAN FOR THE LATTER-TYPE DEFECT.
IN UTERO, THE NOSE, LIPS AND CHIN ARE FISSURED. AS THE FETUS MATURES, THE HALVED PARTS FUSE NATURALLY.

DON'T JOKE LIKE THAT.
THEY SAY MY DAD MUST HAVE MATED WITH A SHE-WOLF... AHA HA HA HA!

THEY WERE SPREADING RUMORS— ABOUT A DANGEROUS WOLF GIRL. THEY SAY YOU ATTACK PEOPLE.
HA... PEOPLE ARE SO STUPID.
I WAS BORN IN TOWN. EVERYONE ALWAYS PICKED ON ME, SO I RAN AWAY.
YOU'VE BEEN LIVING ON THIS MOUNTAIN?
I LEAVE THE REST TO FREEZE TO DEATH.
I SAVE THE ONES THAT STRIKE MY FANCY.
SOME FOLKS RISK THEIR LIVES TRYING TO ESCAPE ACROSS THE MOUNTAIN.
MOST OF THEM DIE OUT THERE.

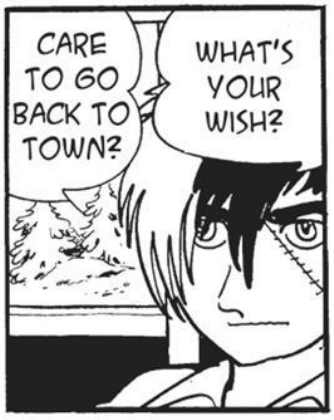

YOU LOOK LIKE SOME PATCHWORK DOLL.
SO WHY DID YOU RESCUE ME?




YES, SINCE I LOOK THE WAY I DO, I ONLY SAVE UGLY PEOPLE. DO YOU UNDERSTAND HOW I FEEL?
I ONLY LET UGLY FOLKS ESCAPE OVER THE MOUNTAIN.

WHAT A FUNNY QUESTION. WHAT ARE YOU, A MAGICIAN?
DO YOU WANT TO BE BEAUTIFUL?

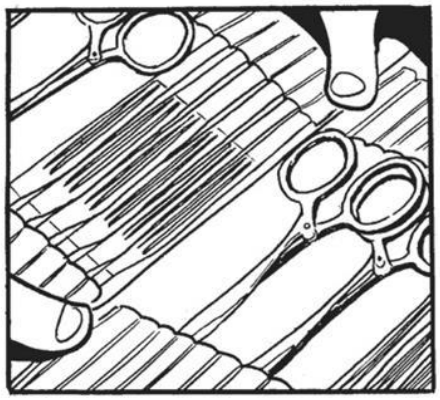
THEY'LL JUST THROW STONES OR SPIT AT ME.
WHY WOULD I WANT THAT?

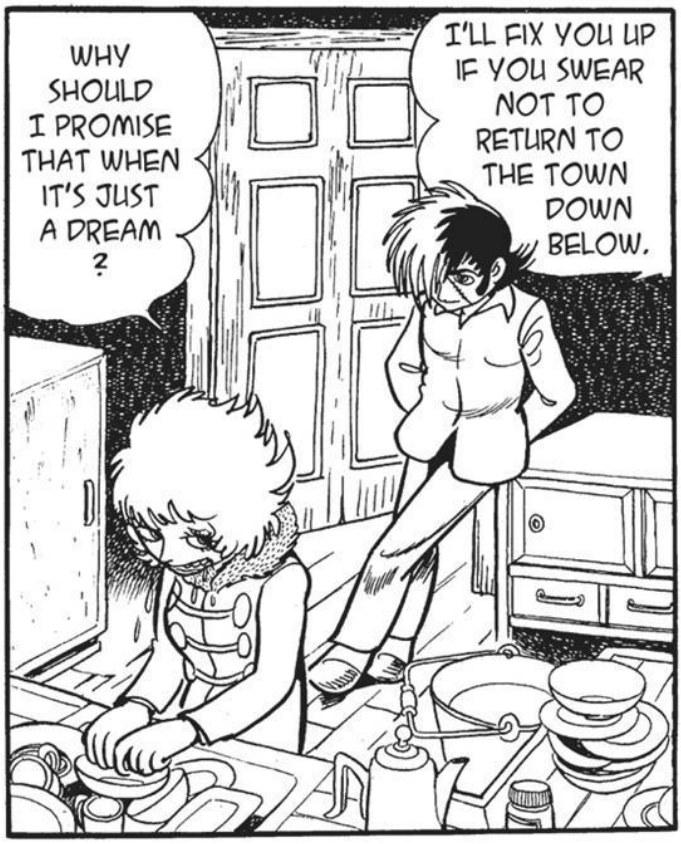

CARE TO GO BACK TO TOWN?
WHAT'S YOUR WISH?

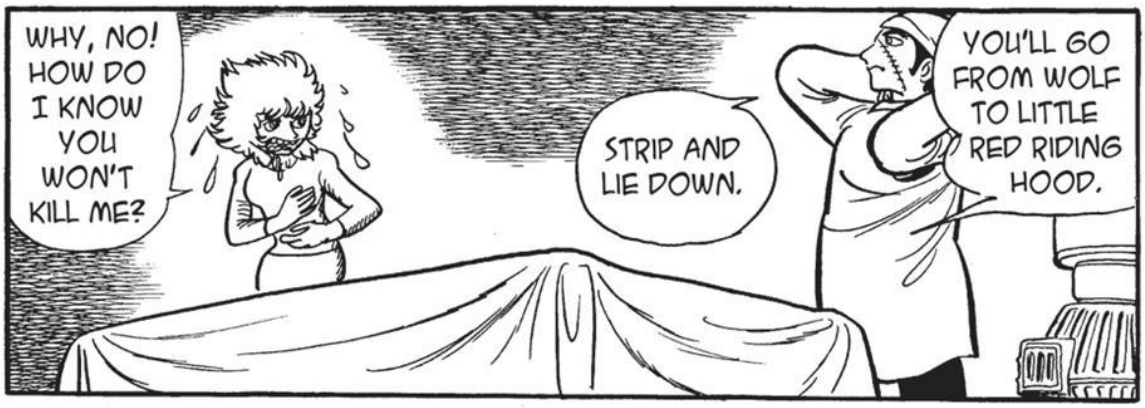
I'D HAVE TO BE REBORN FOR THAT!
DON'T TEASE ME!

I'LL FIX YOUR FACE, SO LONG AS YOU FOLLOW MY ORDERS.
I'M IN YOUR DEBT, AND I'D LIKE TO REPAY IT.

I JUST HAPPEN TO BE A MAGICIAN.

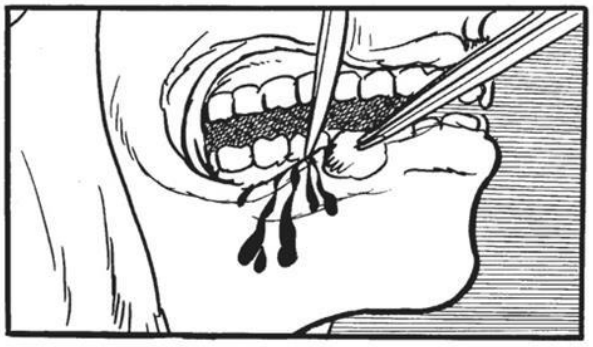


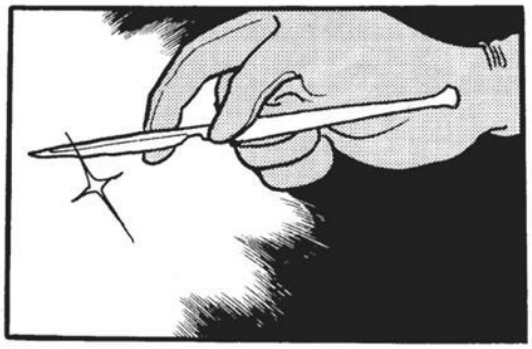

WHY SHOULD I PROMISE THAT WHEN IT'S JUST A DREAM ?
I'LL FIX YOU UP IF YOU SWEAR NOT TO RETURN TO THE TOWN DOWN BELOW.


WHY, NO! HOW DO I KNOW YOU WON'T KILL ME?
STRIP AND LIE DOWN.
YOU'LL GO FROM WOLF TO LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD.

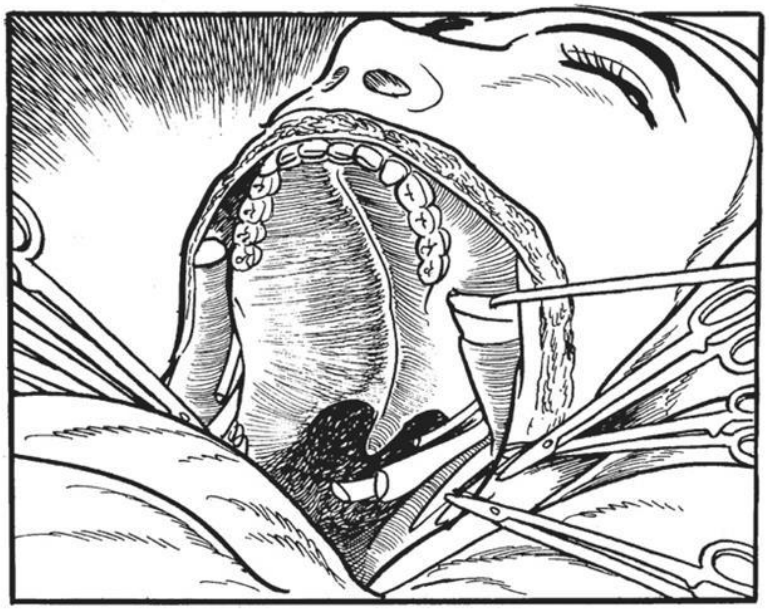
THIS IS A LOCAL ANESTHETIC. DON'T WORRY.

IF YOU DON'T TRUST ME I CAN'T HELP YOU.
IT'LL JUST TAKE ME THIRTY MINUTES.

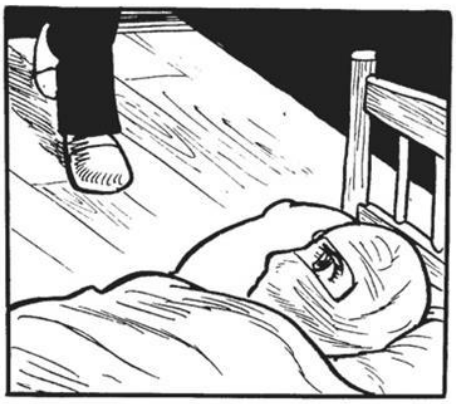




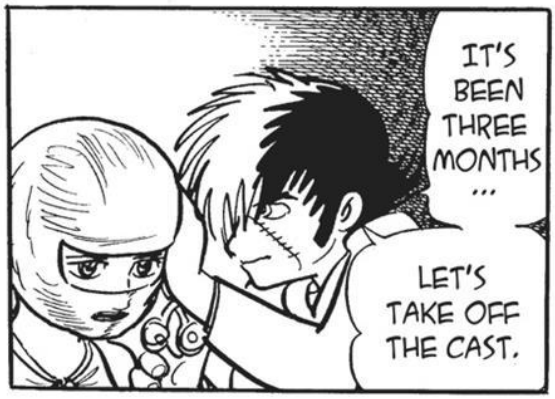
HMM, BOTH THE PALATE AND THE JAW ARE SPLIT ...

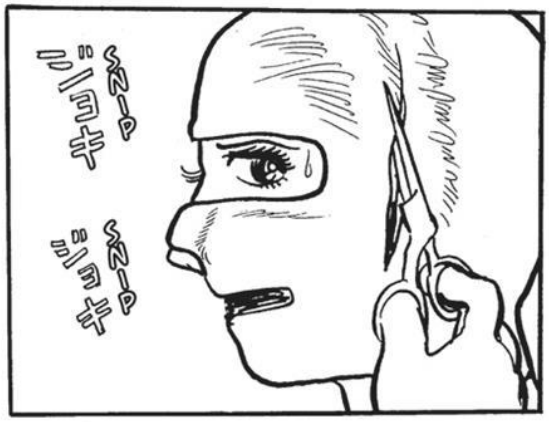


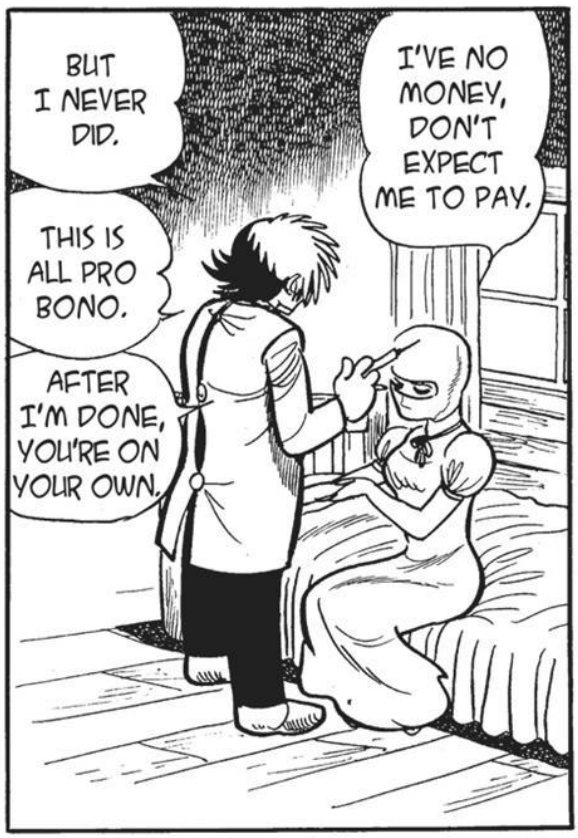
LUCKILY IT'S DRY AND COLD UP HERE, SO SHE NEVER GOT TOO FILTHY...



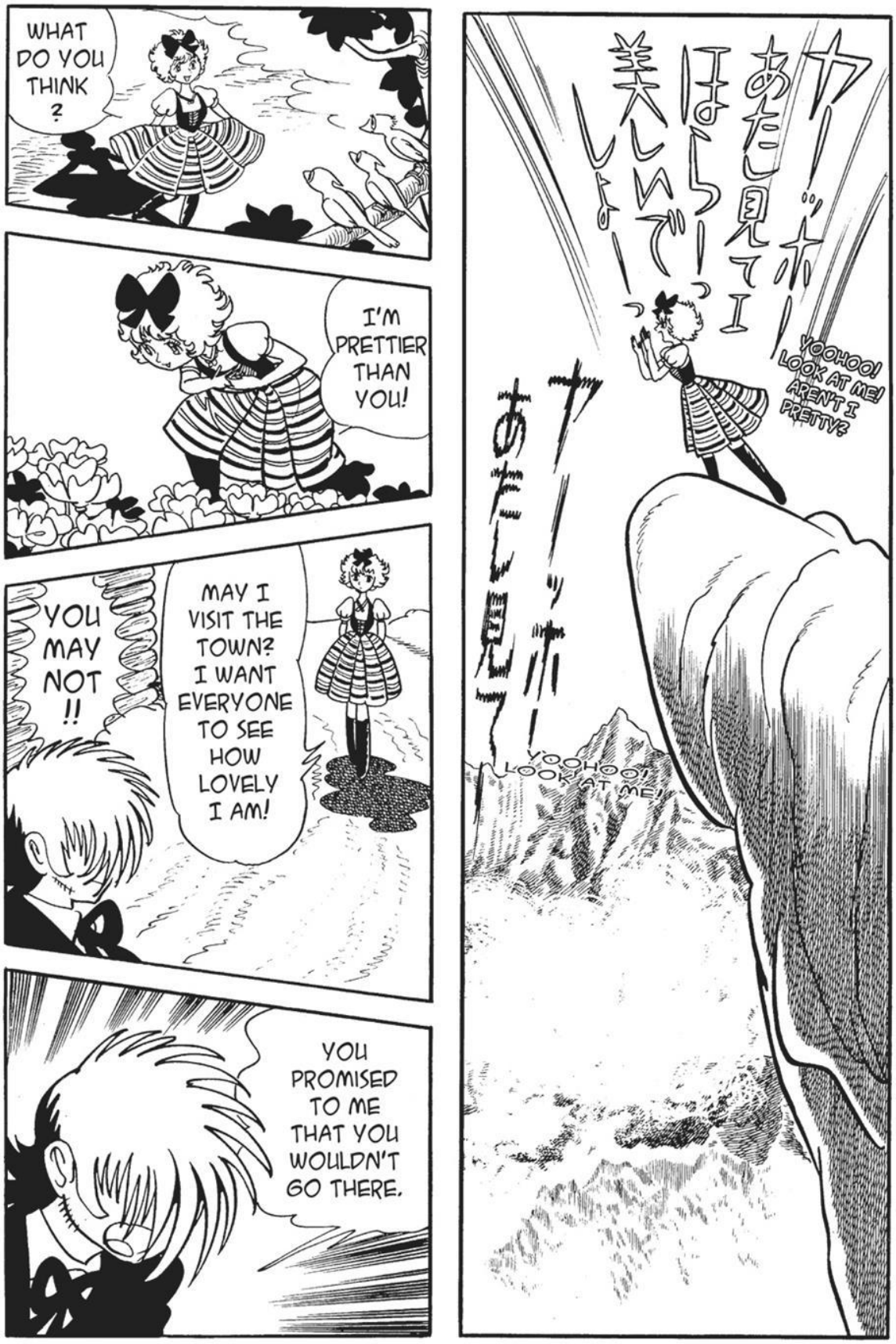
CHIRP

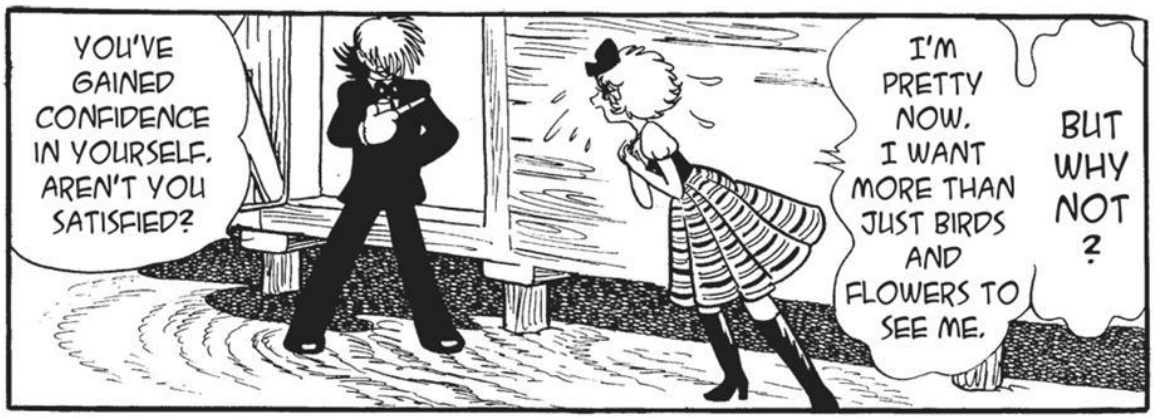

IT'S BEEN THREE MONTHS ...
LET'S TAKE OFF THE CAST.


SNIP
SNIP


I'VE NO MONEY, DON'T EXPECT ME TO PAY.
BUT I NEVER DID.
THIS IS ALL PRO BONO.
AFTER I'M DONE, YOU'RE ON YOUR OWN.

IS THIS REALLY MY FACE ?!
MISTER MAGICIAN!! THANK YOU!!
AM I PRETTY ?
LOOK AT ME! I'M SO PRETTY!


WHAT DO YOU THINK ?
I'M PRETTIER THAN YOU!
YOU MAY NOT !!
MAY I VISIT THE TOWN? I WANT EVERYONE TO SEE HOW LOVELY I AM!
YOU PROMISED TO ME THAT YOU WOULDN'T GO THERE.
YOOHOO! LOOK AT ME! AREN'T I PRETTY?
YOOHOO! LOOK AT ME!


YOU'VE GAINED CONFIDENCE IN YOURSELF. AREN'T YOU SATISFIED?
I'M PRETTY NOW. I WANT MORE THAN JUST BIRDS AND FLOWERS TO SEE ME.
BUT WHY NOT ?

...

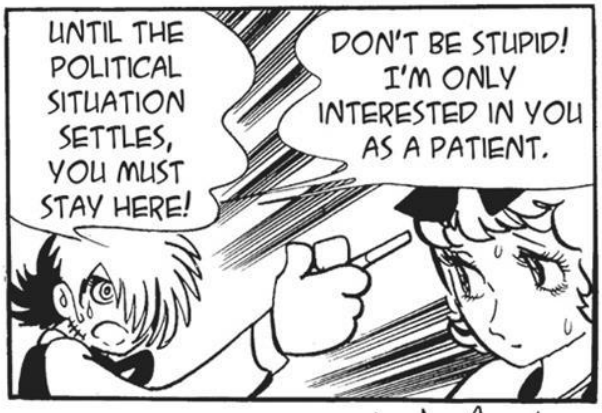
NO !

I... I WANT TO HANG OUT WITH A LAD!

だれか あたしを みにきてエー
SOMEBODY COME SEE ME!

YOU ONLY LIVE ONCE, FOOL!
I DON'T CARE, I'LL RISK IT.

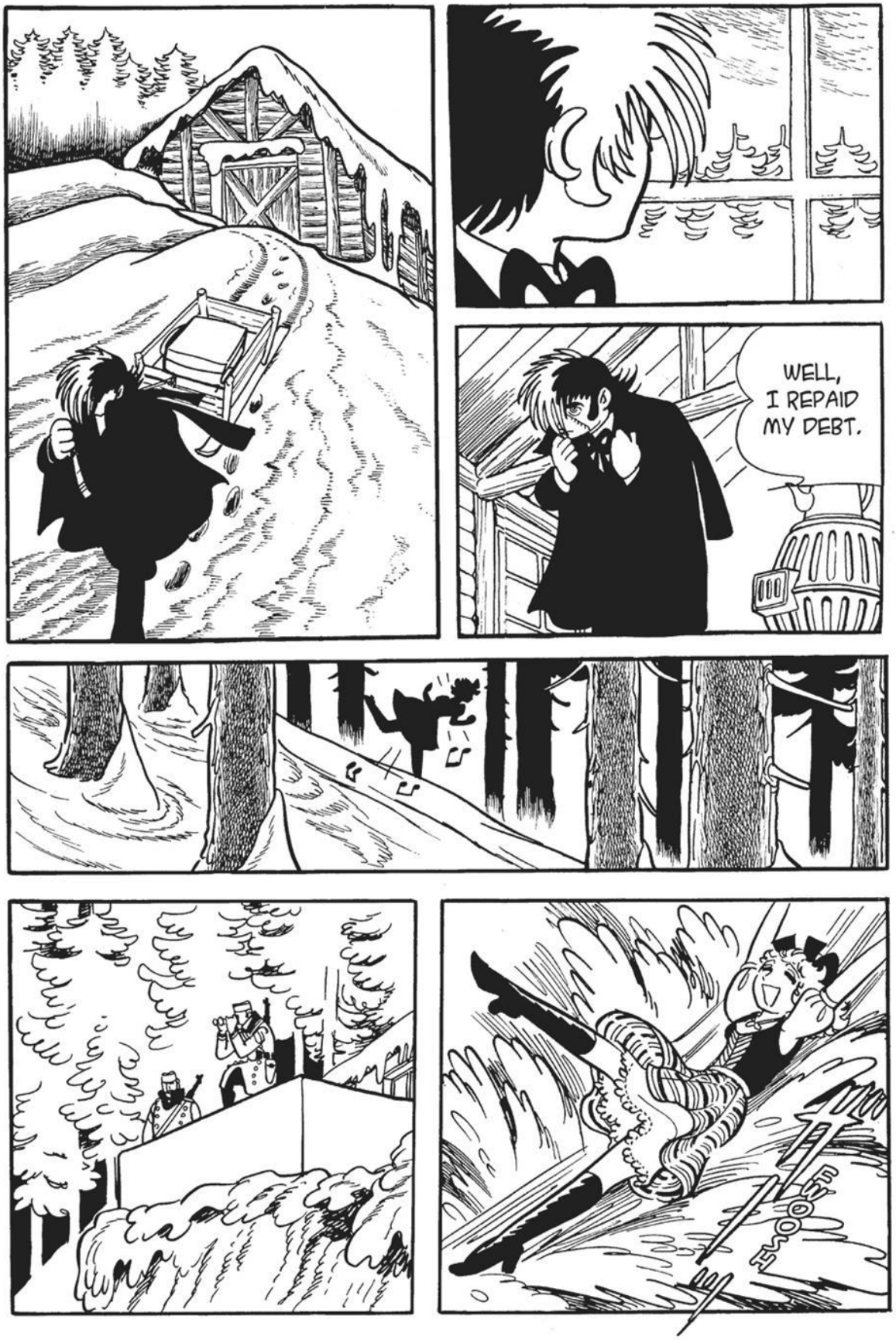
IT'S TOO RISKY.
I WANNA GO, DOCTOR. WHY CAN'T I, ANYWAY?
I CAN'T VOUCH FOR YOUR SAFETY IF YOU GO.


UNTIL THE POLITICAL SITUATION SETTLES, YOU MUST STAY HERE!
DON'T BE STUPID! I'M ONLY INTERESTED IN YOU AS A PATIENT.

YOU WANNA KEEP ME ALL TO YOURSELF.
I GET IT. YOU DON'T WANT ME TO GO AND FIND MYSELF A BOYFRIEND.

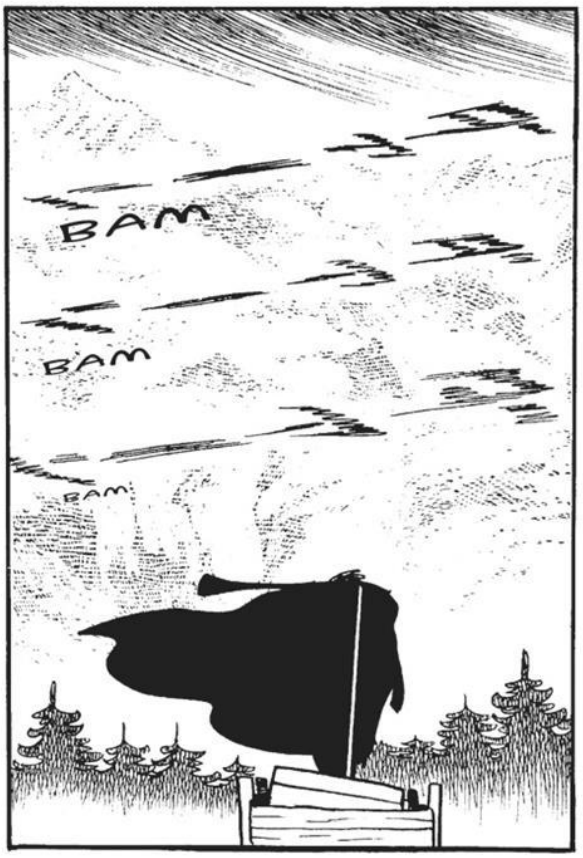
THAT GIRL! SHE'S GONE TO THE TOWN!

Doctor,
Please let me be free for one day. Let me go to town for just one day, then I promise to never ask for anything again.
Please.


WELL, I REPAID MY DEBT.

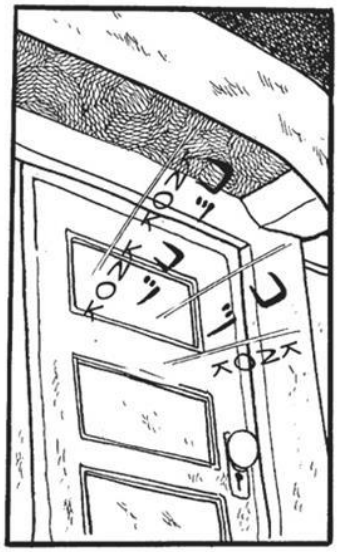
WE HAVE ORDERS TO SHOOT ALL TRAITORS ON SIGHT.
I SEE SOME-ONE. A GIRL.

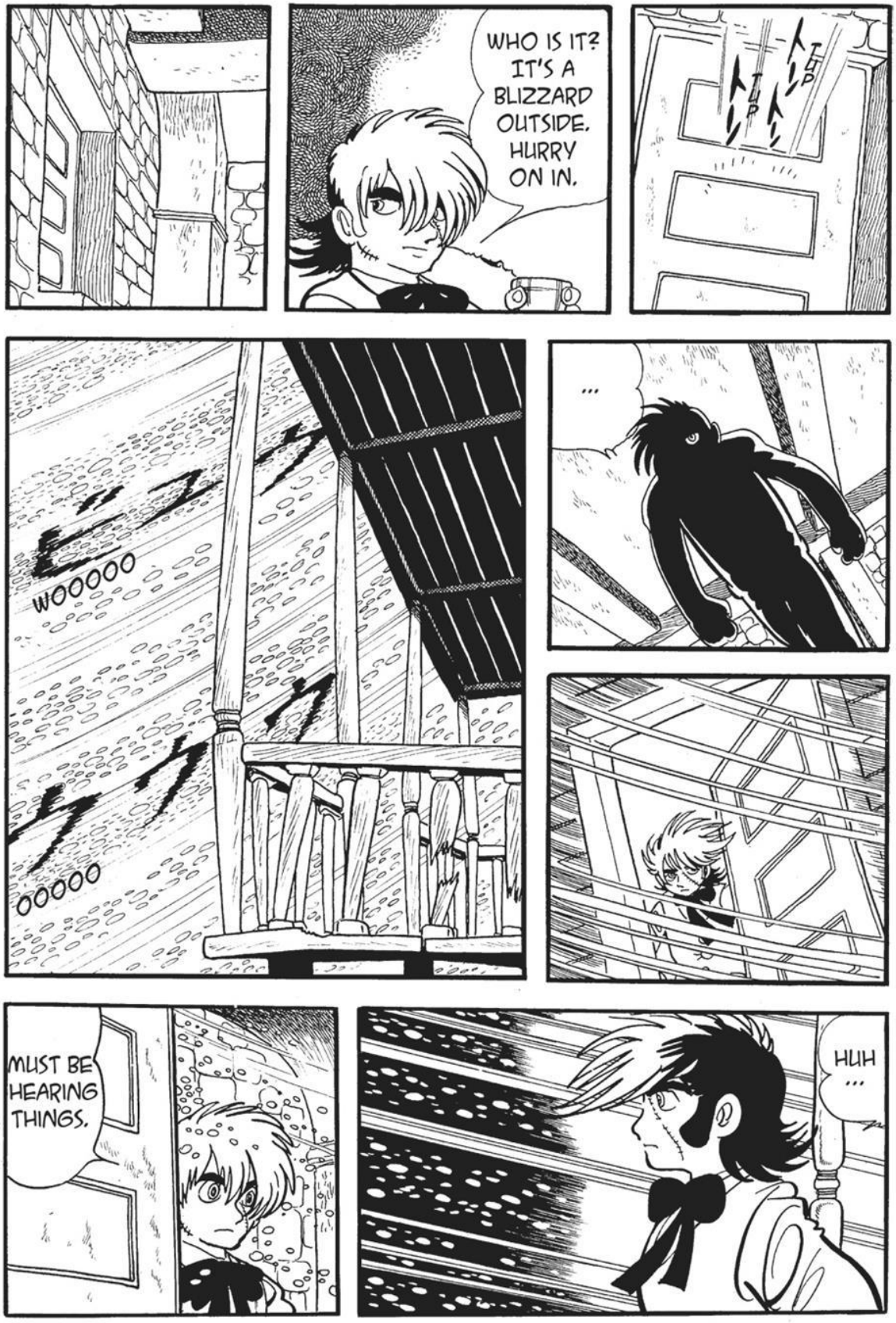
ONLY A DEFECTOR WOULD BE UP IN THE MOUNTAINS RIGHT NOW. FIRE!

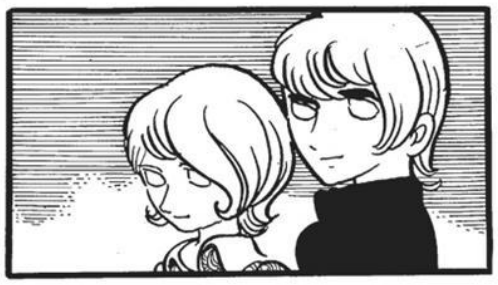

BAM
BAM
BAM

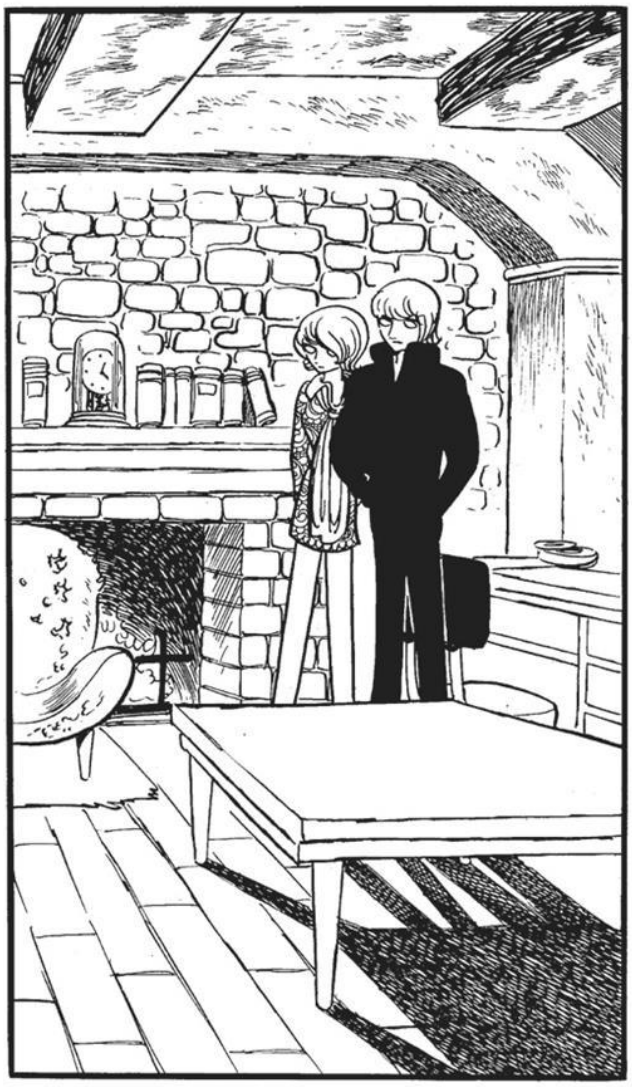
# ON A SNOWY NIGHT

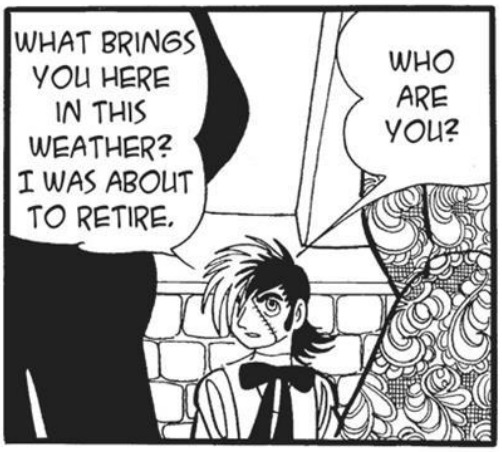
WHO'S THERE ?

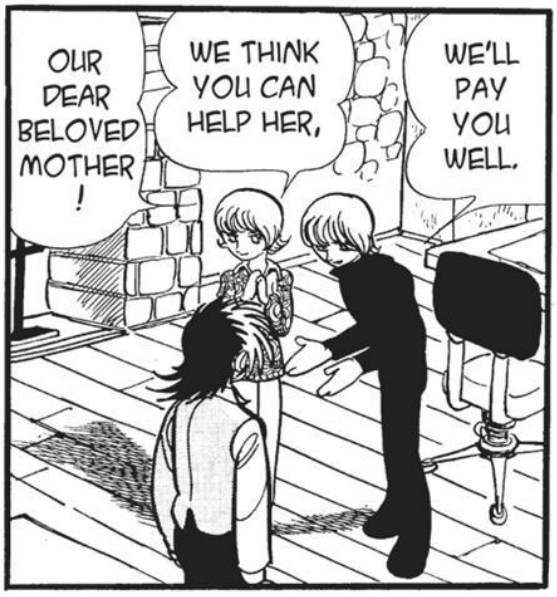



WHO IS IT? IT'S A BLIZZARD OUTSIDE. HURRY ON IN.
TIP
TIP
WOOOOO
OOOOO
...
MUST BE HEARING THINGS.
HUH ...

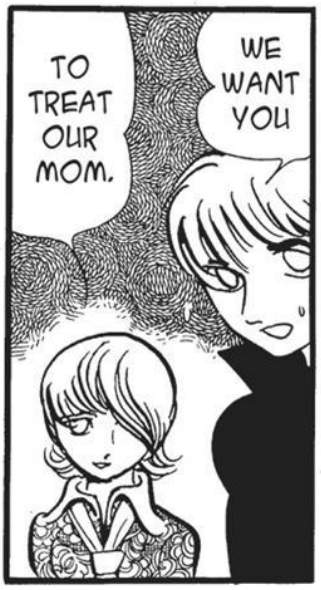





WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE IN THIS WEATHER? I WAS ABOUT TO RETIRE.
WHO ARE YOU?

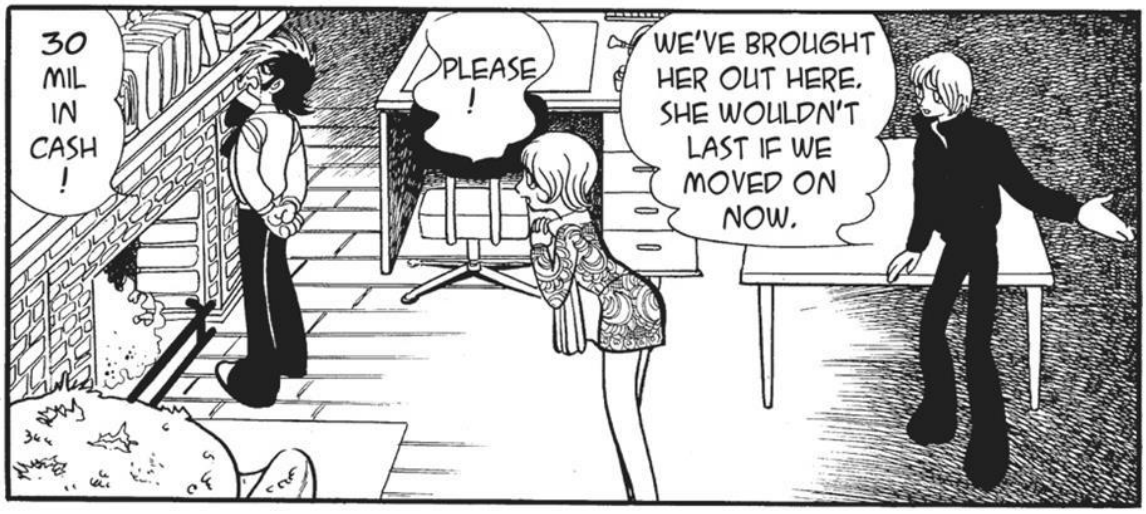

OUR DEAR BELOVED MOTHER!
WE THINK YOU CAN HELP HER,
WE'LL PAY YOU WELL.

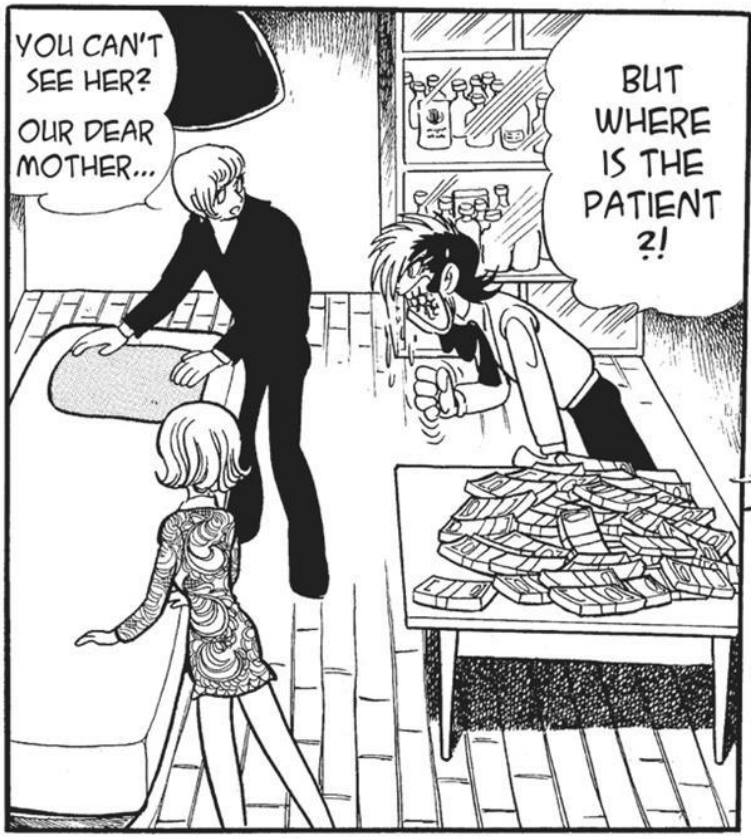
YEAH?


TO TREAT OUR MOM.
WE WANT YOU

NOT GONNA GIVE UP? MARK ME SURPRISED.
WHAT DO YOU SAY ?

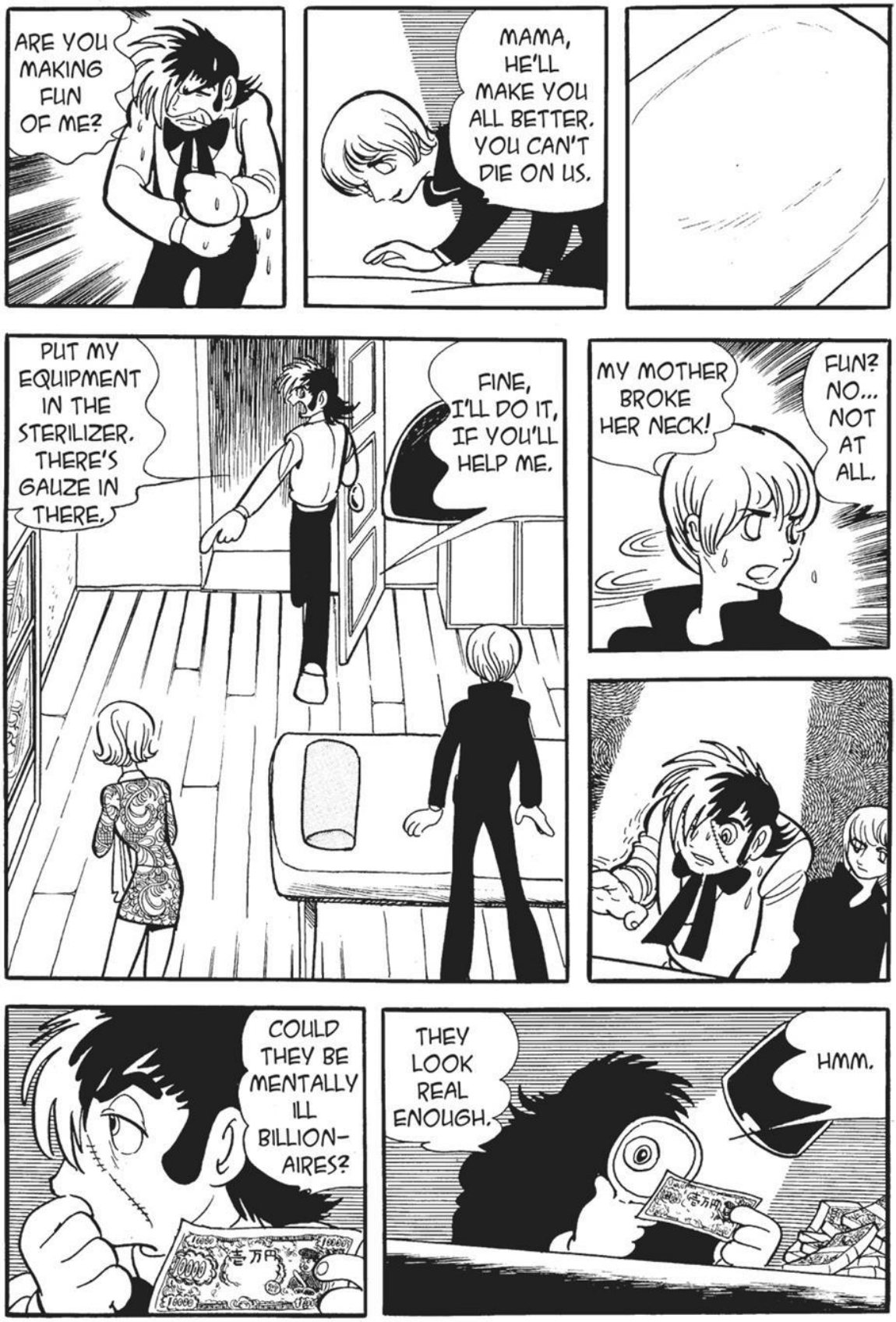
IF YOU INSIST, MY FEE IS THIRTY MILLION YEN!
I DON'T HAVE A LICENSE! TRY THE HOSPITAL IN TOWN.


30 MIL IN CASH !
PLEASE !
WE'VE BROUGHT HER OUT HERE. SHE WOULDN'T LAST IF WE MOVED ON NOW.


YOU CAN'T SEE HER?
OUR DEAR MOTHER...
BUT WHERE IS THE PATIENT ?!

30 MILLION YEN.
HERE YOU ARE.

WHA-T?!

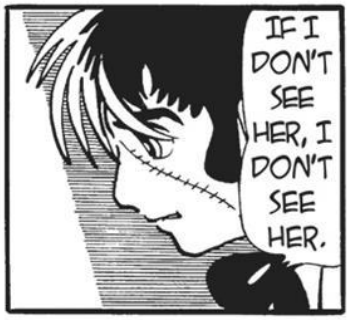

ARE YOU MAKING FUN OF ME?
MAMA, HE'LL MAKE YOU ALL BETTER. YOU CAN'T DIE ON US.
PUT MY EQUIPMENT IN THE STERILIZER. THERE'S GAUZE IN THERE.
FINE, I'LL DO IT, IF YOU'LL HELP ME.
MY MOTHER BROKE HER NECK!
FUN? NO... NOT AT ALL.
COULD THEY BE MENTALLY ILL BILLIONAIRES?
THEY LOOK REAL ENOUGH.
HMM.

DOCTOR, SHE'S IN PAIN! PLEASE, BEGIN.

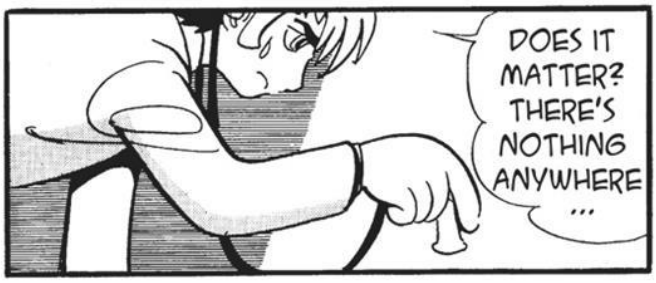
IF THAT'S THE CASE, TURNING THEM DOWN HAS ITS RISKS...

THAT'S UN-FORTUNATE. BUT SURELY YOU CAN OPERATE EVEN THEN.
I CAN'T SEE THIS PATIENT OF YOURS.

PLEASE EXAMINE HER.


IF I DON'T SEE HER, I DON'T SEE HER.

THERE'S NOTHING THERE. SHE'S OVER HERE.


DOES IT MATTER? THERE'S NOTHING ANYWHERE ...

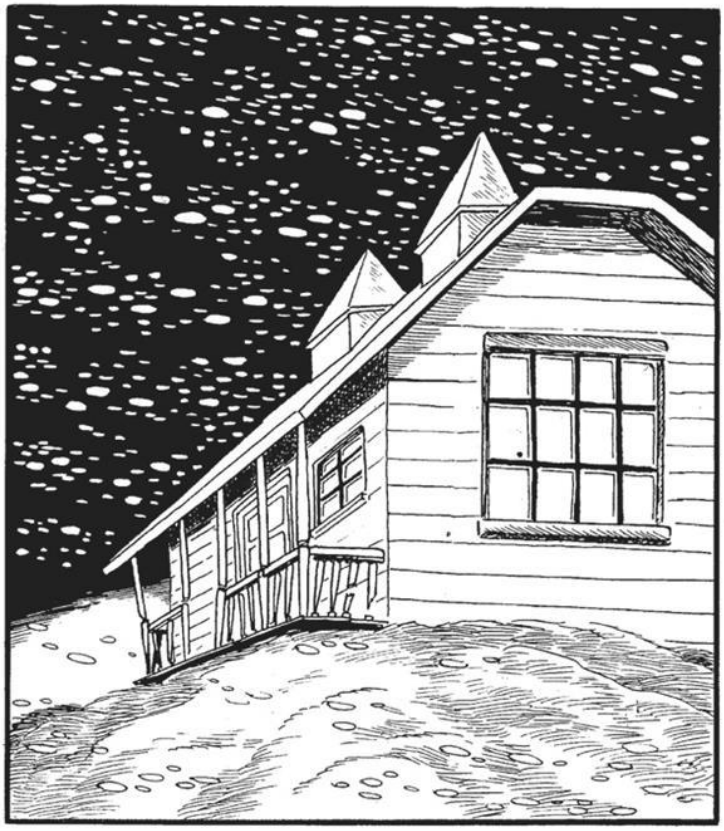
HMM ...

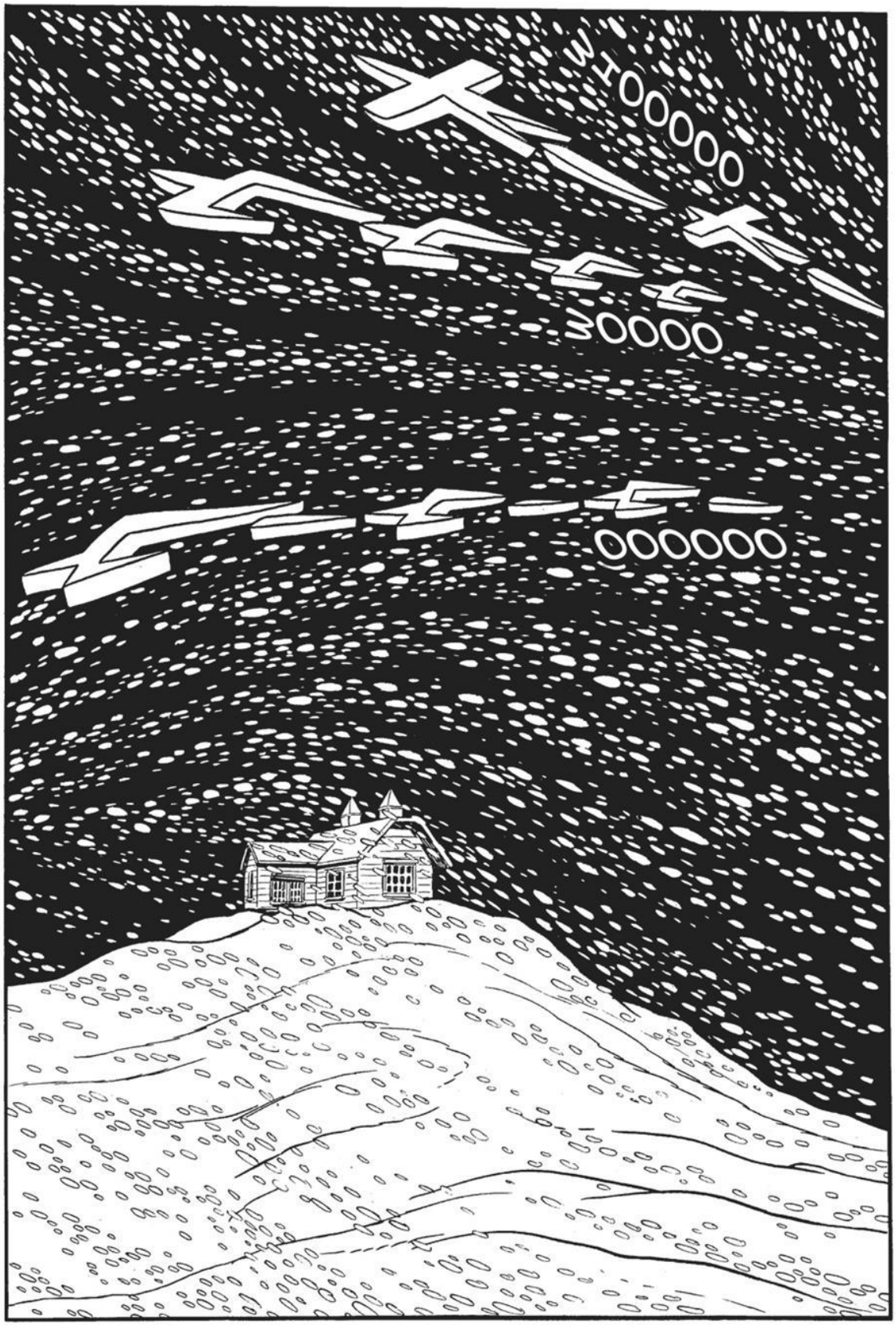
YES, HER NECK!
ISN'T IT BROKEN?

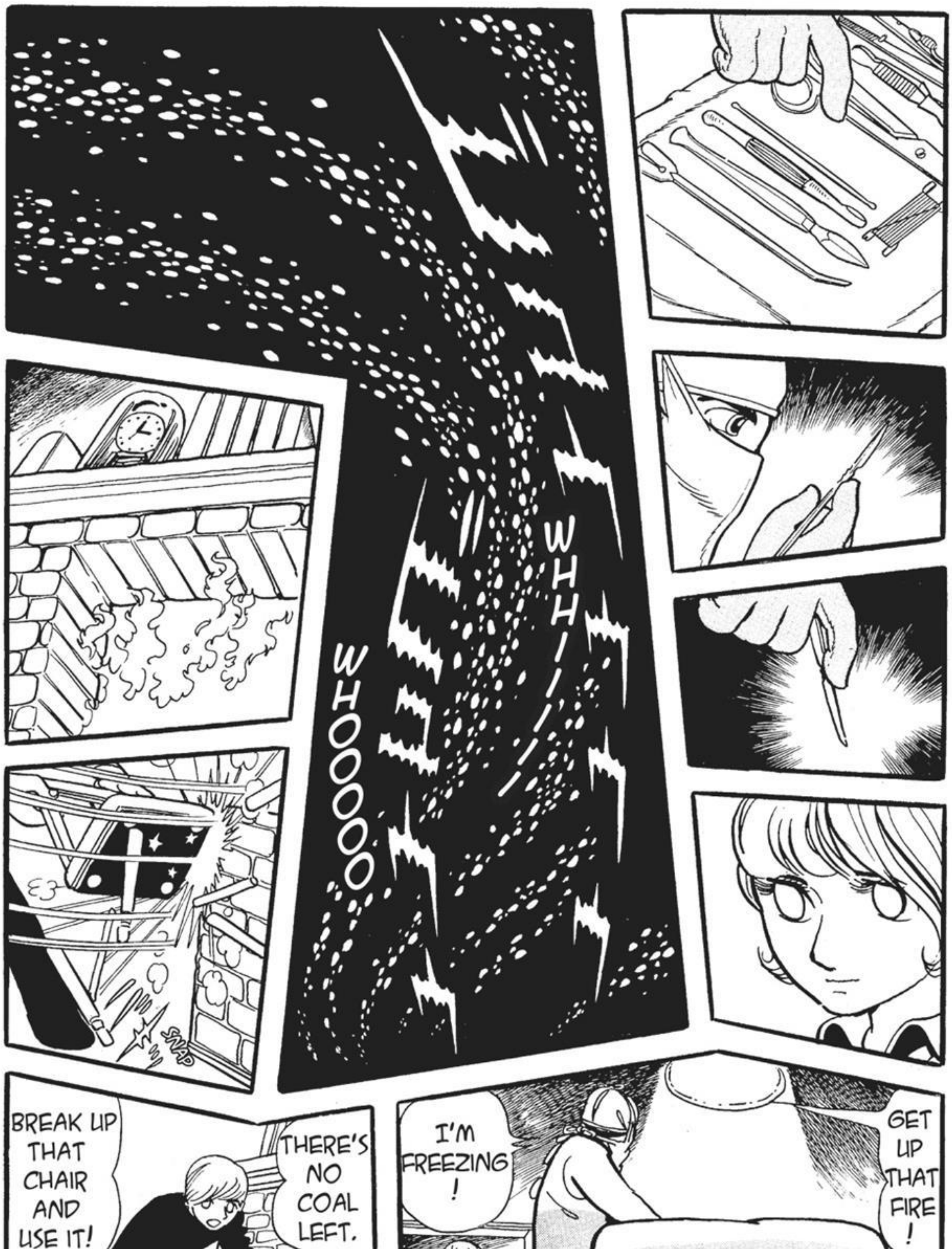
OH, AH, SORRY ...
DOCTOR, W-WOULD YOU STOP TOUCHING HER THERE?
IS THIS MORE LIKE IT ?

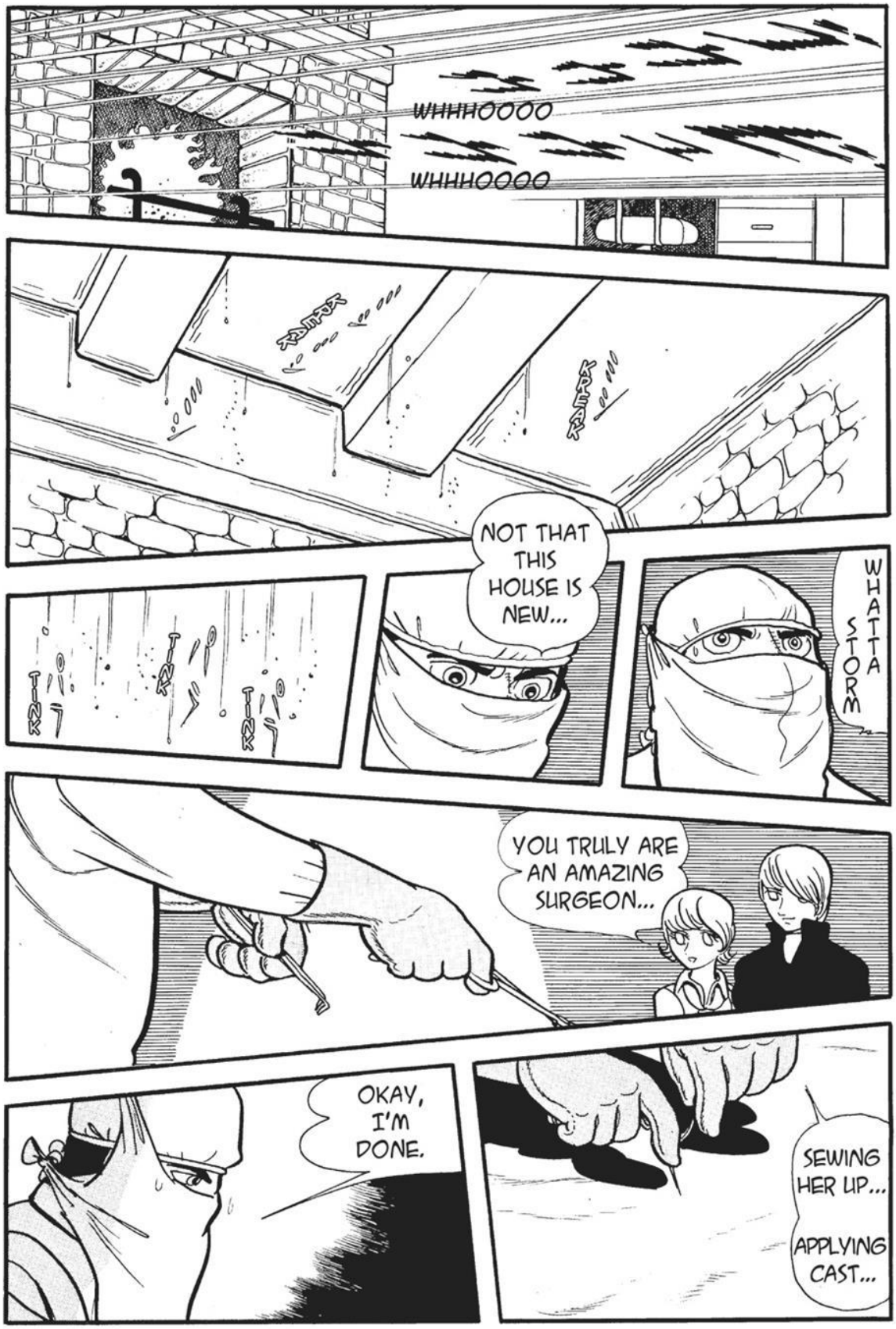
HOW DID IT GET SO COLD IN HERE?
STOKE UP THE FIRE. I CAN'T USE MY HANDS IF THEY'RE FREEZING.

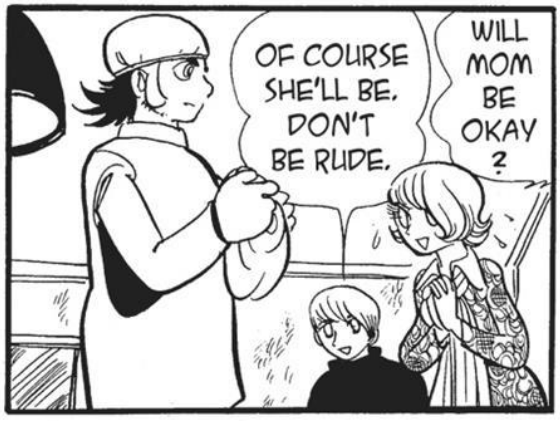
I'M GROPING IN THE DARK.
IF I CAN'T SAVE HER, THEN WHAT ?




WHOOOOOO
WOOOOO
OOOOOO

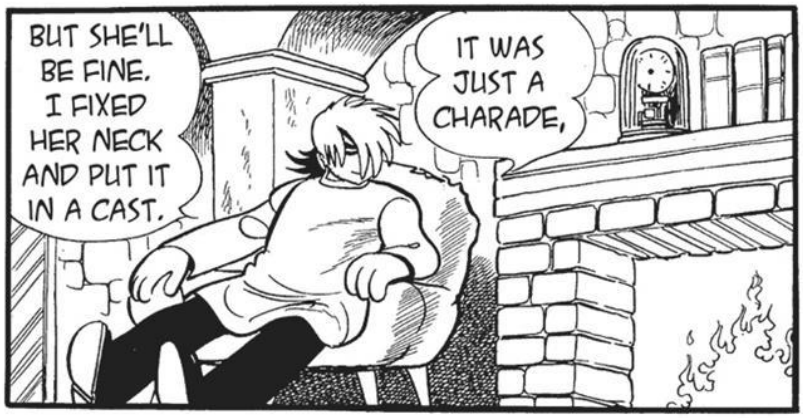

WHOOOOOO
WHH///
SNAP
GET UP THAT FIRE!
I'M FREEZING!
THERE'S NO COAL LEFT.
BREAK UP THAT CHAIR AND USE IT!

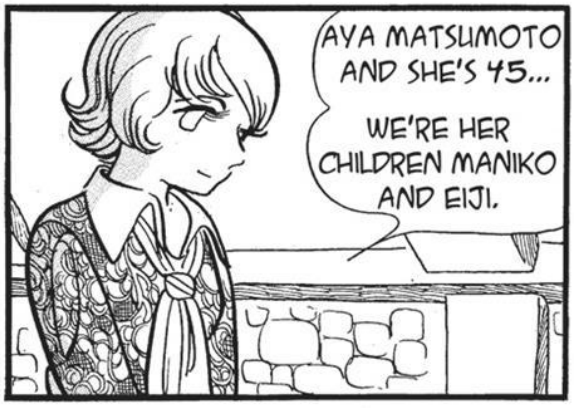

WHHHOOOO
WHHHOOOO
NOT THAT THIS HOUSE IS NEW...
WHATTA STORM
YOU TRULY ARE AN AMAZING SURGEON...
OKAY, I'M DONE.
SEWING HER UP...
APPLYING CAST...


OF COURSE SHE'LL BE. DON'T BE RUDE.
WILL MOM BE OKAY ?

PRETEND SURGERY IS THE HARDEST KIND.
WHEW ...

THANK YOU, DOCTOR !
OH, YOU DID IT!

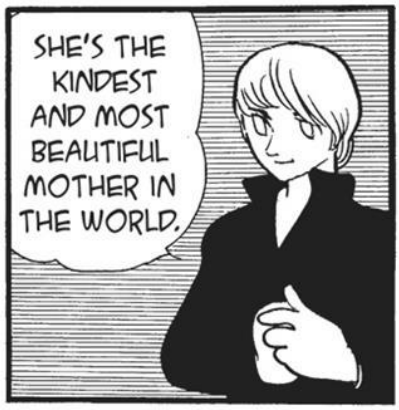

BUT SHE'LL BE FINE. I FIXED HER NECK AND PUT IT IN A CAST.
IT WAS JUST A CHARADE,


AYA MATSUMOTO AND SHE'S 45...
WE'RE HER CHILDREN MANIKO AND EIJI.

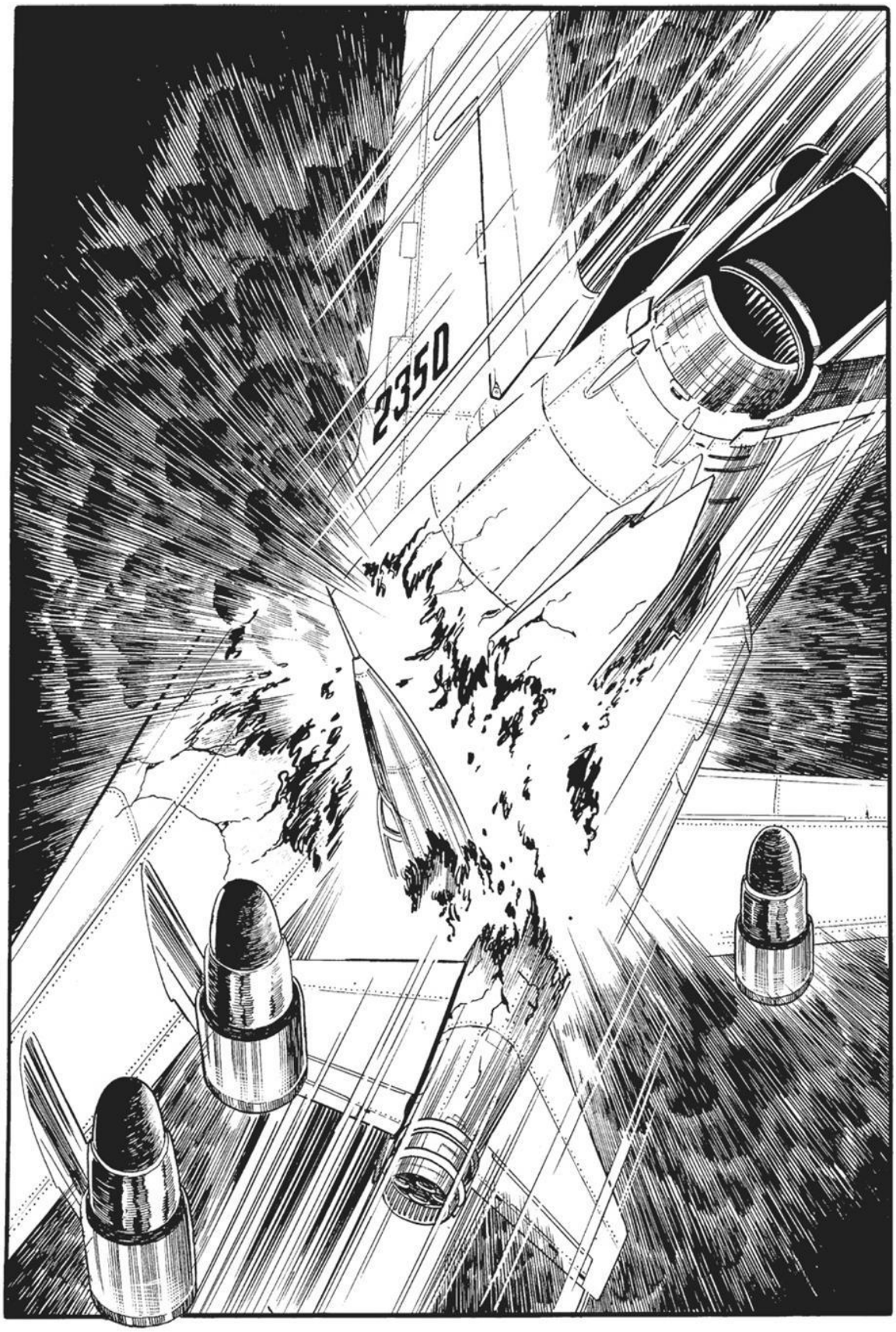
OUR MOTHER IS...
I HAVE TO CREATE A CHART FOR HER. GIVE ME HER PERSONAL DETAILS.

KUROSAWA APART-MENTS, 1-1-3 SENNINCHO, SHINJUKU, TOKYO.

WASN'T ASKING THAT!
ADDRESS?

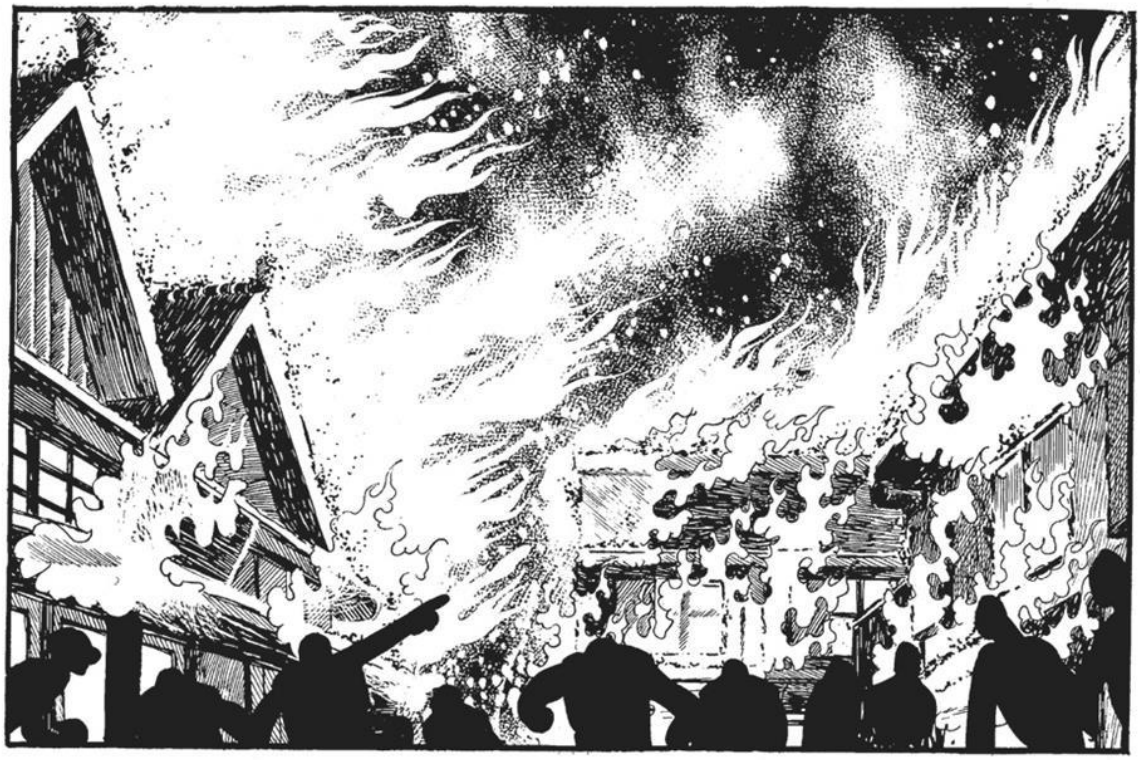

SHE'S THE KINDEST AND MOST BEAUTIFUL MOTHER IN THE WORLD.

HOKKAIDO?
WE SET OUT FOR A WEEK-LONG VACATION!
SHE WAS SO HAPPY.
NO, SHE WAS FINE WHEN WE LEFT TOKYO!
TOKYO? AND YOU CAME ALL THE WAY HERE?
WE SAVED UP SOME MONEY TO TAKE HER ON A TRIP TO HOKKAIDO. WE'D ALWAYS WANTED TO.
HEY... I WROTE THAT DOWN!
"AT YER SER-VICE."
AT YER SER-VICE
WHAT?!
AND CRASHED INTO OUR PLANE.
ON OUR WAY TO HOKKAIDO AN AIR FORCE JET TOOK OFF FROM A BASE NEAR HERE


2350

EVERY-ONE ON BOARD.
THEN THE PLANE CRASHED INTO THE TOWN HERE ALONG WITH
I LOOKED OVER AT MAMA. HER NECK WAS BROKEN.

YANK



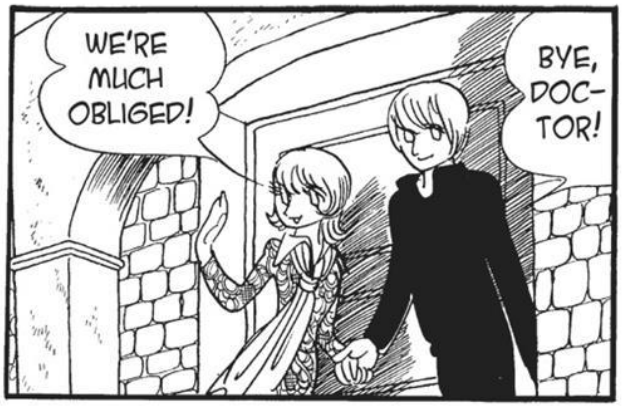
WE HEARD ABOUT YOUR GREAT SKILLS, SO WE WANTED YOU TO HELP MAMA. BUT HER BODY WAS ALREADY BURNT UP.
THE CRASH CAUSED THAT FIRE?
THE TOWN IS BURNING.

WE'RE LUCKY TO STILL HAVE OUR BODIES AT LEAST, MANIKO.
ALL WE COULD DO WAS BRING HER SOUL.

WHAT A THING TO SAY! HOW RUDE!
DEAD ?!

SO THAT MEANS YOU'RE DEAD.

O-OKAY... WHERE'D YOU GET THAT CASH?
REALLY! DON'T INSULT US.
WE'VE SIMPLY BECOME ANOTHER KIND OF HUMAN.
THEY WERE THE ONES WHO HURT MAMA. I SAY IT'S ONLY FAIR.
WE TRICKED THEM AND SNUCK AWAY WITH THE CASH.
OH, THAT. HEH HEH... WE STOLE IT FROM THE AIR FORCE BASE.
CAN SHE PLEASE BE HOS-PITALIZED HERE 'TIL SHE'S WELL ENOUGH TO GO?
WE'RE TAKING MAMA TO SEE HOKKAIDO.
SO, UM, WHAT WILL YOU DO NOW?
THE ACCIDENT MUST HAVE REALLY WORN HER OUT.
JUST LET HER REST 'TIL WE COME BACK FOR HER.
SHE CAN STAY, BUT... I DON'T KNOW HOW TO CARE FOR HER.


WE'RE MUCH OBLIGED!
BYE, DOC-TOR!

BAZO
BAZO
A PLANE CRASHED INTO THE TOWN AN' THERE'S A HUGE FIRE!
DOCTOR ...
THIS IS NO TIME TO BE SITTIN' AROUND.
WE'RE BRINGIN' THE WORST WOUNDED HERE, DOC!
WHADDYA THINK?! AT LEAST 100 DEAD.
SO IT SEEMS.
IS THE DAMAGE BAD?
GENTLY, GENTLY.
DUNNO, MAYBE. HERE COMES ONE!
HEAVE-HO, HEAVE-HO, HERE WE GO!
WERE THERE TEENAGED SIBLINGS AMONG THE DEAD?

STOP!! YOU CAN'T USE THAT!!
ON MY COUNT...
THAT BED IS OPEN.
PULL OUT A FUTON OVER THERE!
THE PATIENT ON THIS BED IS...
AYA MATSUMOTO, 45 YEARS OLD! HER CHART'S RIGHT THERE!
WAKE UP, THERE'S NOTHING ON THAT BED.
THERE'S A PATIENT RESTING HERE!
A PATIENT WITH A BROKEN NECK IS RECOVERING ON THIS BED. YOU CAN'T USE IT.

ULP !
WELL I'M NOT JOKING !!

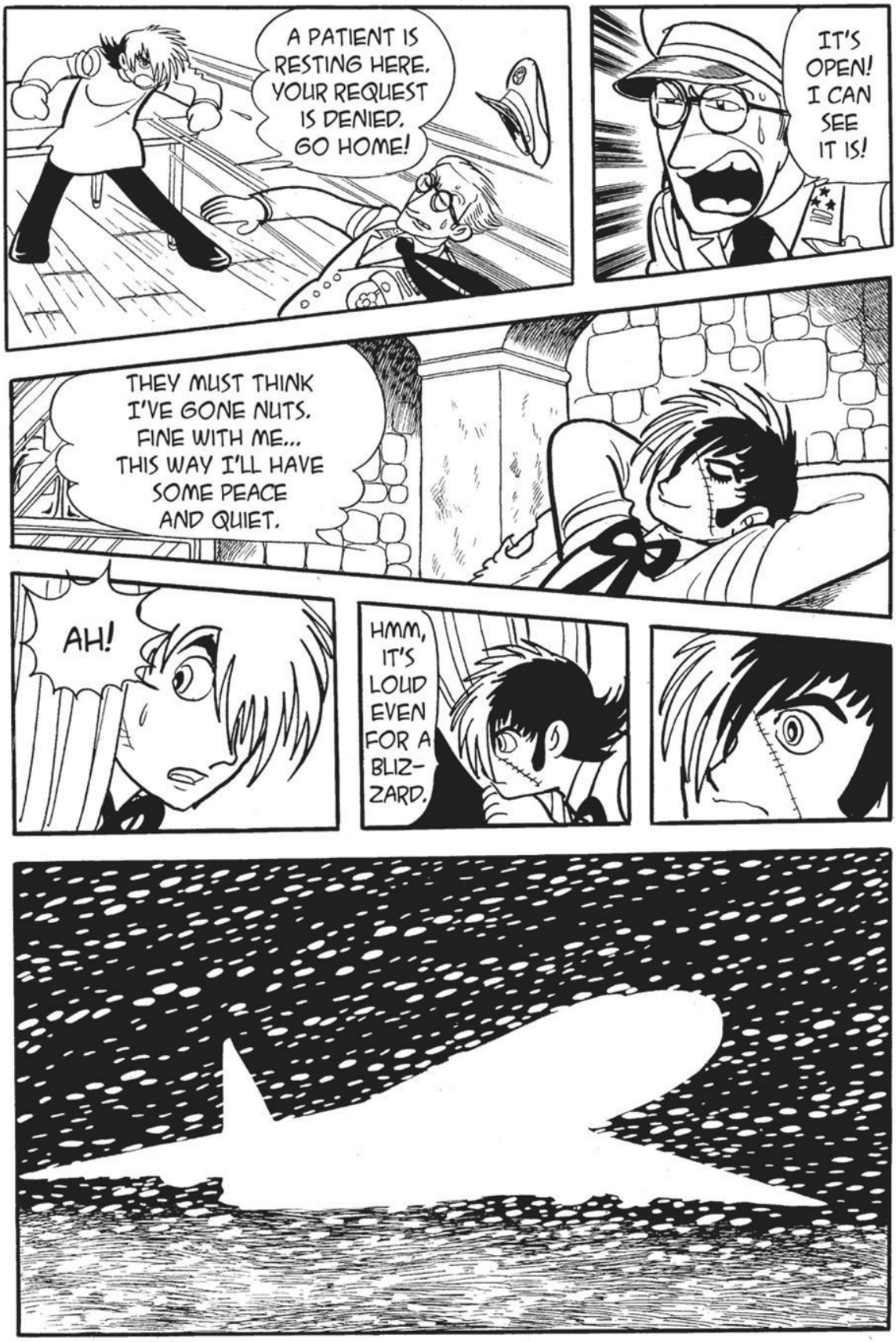
DON'T BE SILLY. CAN'T YOU SEE THIS IS NO TIME FOR JOKES?

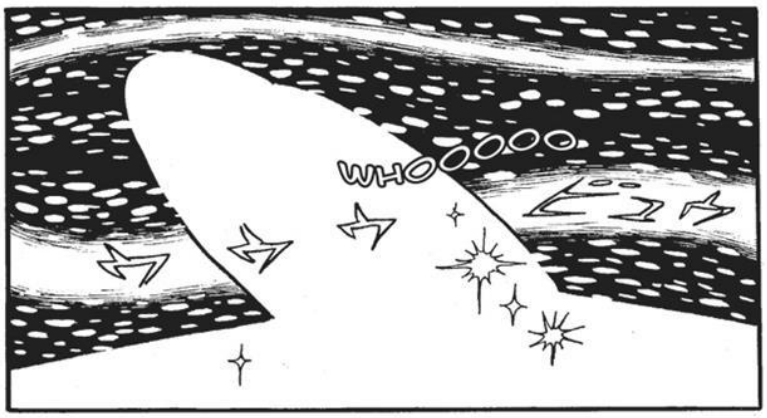
BUT THEY PAID 30 MILLION. A PATIENT IS A PATIENT.
I AGREE THAT IT'S RIDICULOUS ...

YEAH, LET'S GO.
UHH, GUYS... I SAY WE CAN'T TRUST THIS QUACK.

BUT THAT BED RIGHT THERE IS OPEN!
THIS BED IS CURRENTLY IN USE.

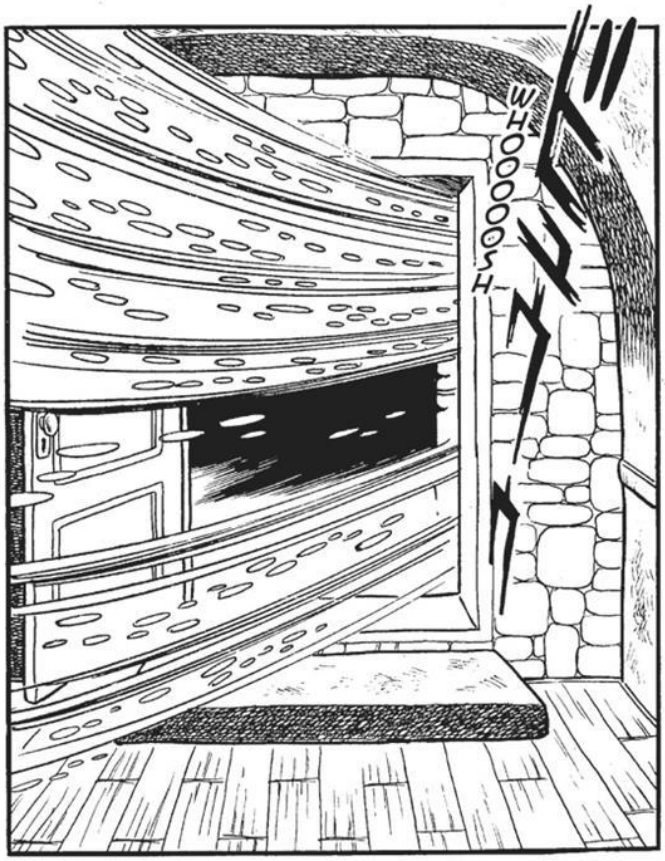
I'M HERE TO FORMALLY REQUEST THAT YOU TAKE IN AND TREAT THE WOUNDED.
I'M FROM BOON-DOCKS BASE.
I CAN'T ACCEPT ANY PATIENTS.


A PATIENT IS RESTING HERE. YOUR REQUEST IS DENIED. GO HOME!
IT'S OPEN! I CAN SEE IT IS!
THEY MUST THINK I'VE GONE NUTS. FINE WITH ME... THIS WAY I'LL HAVE SOME PEACE AND QUIET.
AH!
HMM, IT'S LOUD EVEN FOR A BLIZ-ZARD.


WHOOOOOO

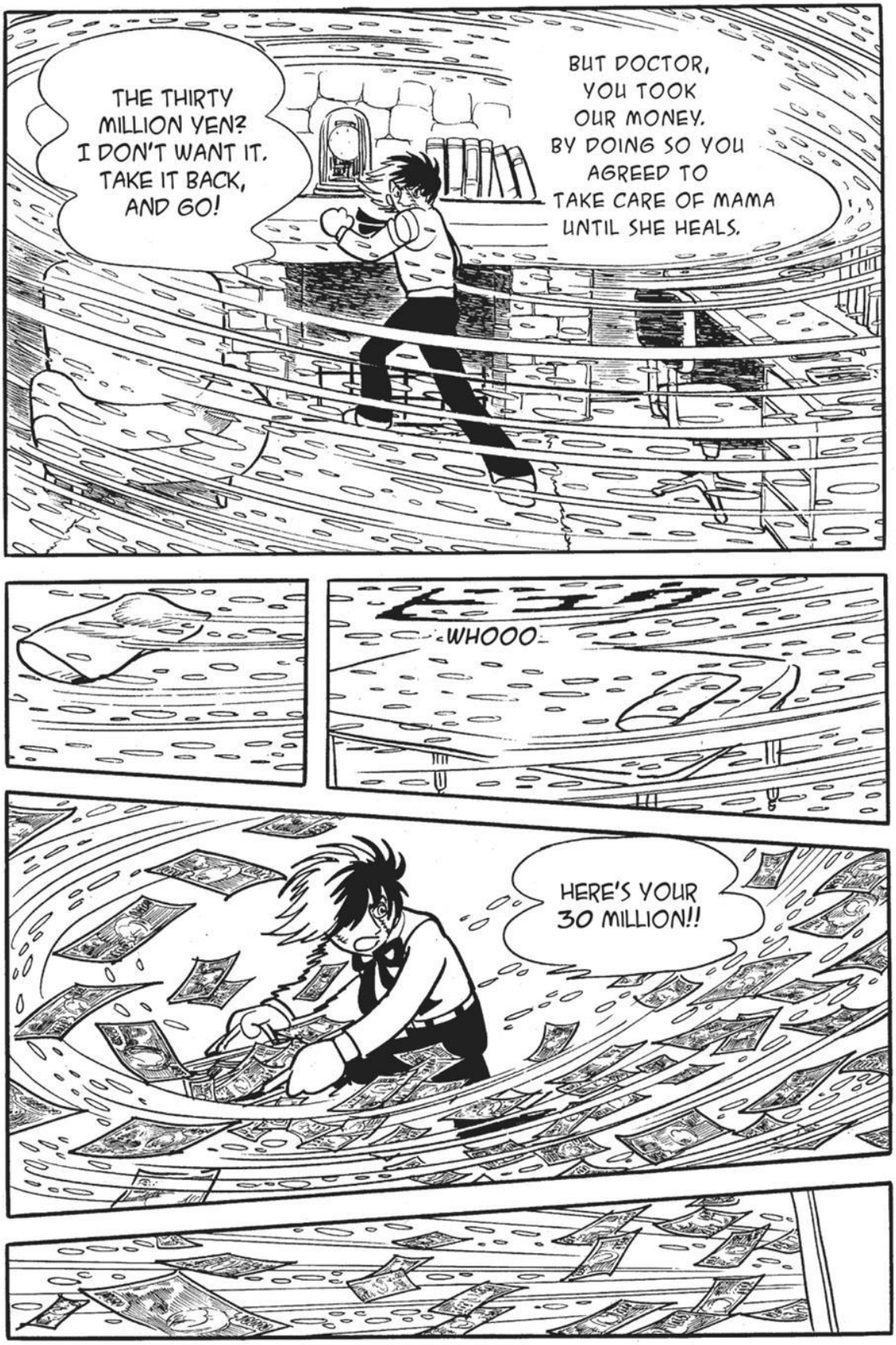
A PURE WHITE PLANE ?
OR AM I SEEING THINGS ?
MUST BE A SNOW-DRIFT.

WH... WHAT NOW ?


WHOOOOOOSH

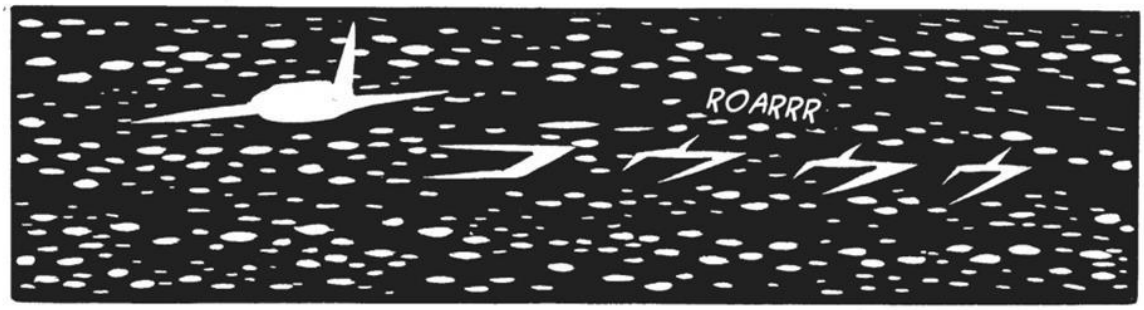
ARE YOU EIJI AND MANIKO? WHY BACK SO SOON?
DOCTOR... WE'VE COME FOR MAMA...

NO, A PLACE MUCH FARTHER AWAY THAN HOKKAIDO. WE'LL HAVE HER RECUPERATE THERE.
YOU MEAN TO HOKKAIDO ?
WE'RE SUDDENLY HAVING TO TAKE HER WITH US NOW.
DOCTOR, PLEASE COME WITH US!
REALLY? THAT'S GOOD NEWS, ISN'T IT? WELL, SHE'S ALL YOURS.
BUT YOU ARE IN CHARGE OF MAMA'S CARE.
DON'T BE ABSURD. I'M A LIVING PERSON!
ME TOO ?!
I SAID NO!
A NEW PLANE IS WAITING. EVERYONE WHO WENT DOWN WITH THE OTHER PLANE IS NOW ON BOARD.
BUT WE LEFT ONE SEAT OPEN. IT'S FOR YOU, DOCTOR.
I CAN'T TRAVEL TO SUCH A FAR PLACE!
I CAN'T COME WITH YOU!


THE THIRTY MILLION YEN? I DON'T WANT IT. TAKE IT BACK, AND GO!
BUT DOCTOR, YOU TOOK OUR MONEY. BY DOING SO YOU AGREED TO TAKE CARE OF MAMA UNTIL SHE HEALS.
WHOOO
HERE'S YOUR 30 MILLION!!

DAMMIT, IT'S COLD! ARE THEY TRYING TO KILL ME?!
A BIGGER FIRE...
WHHOOOOOO
WHOOOMMM

WHOOOM


ROARRR

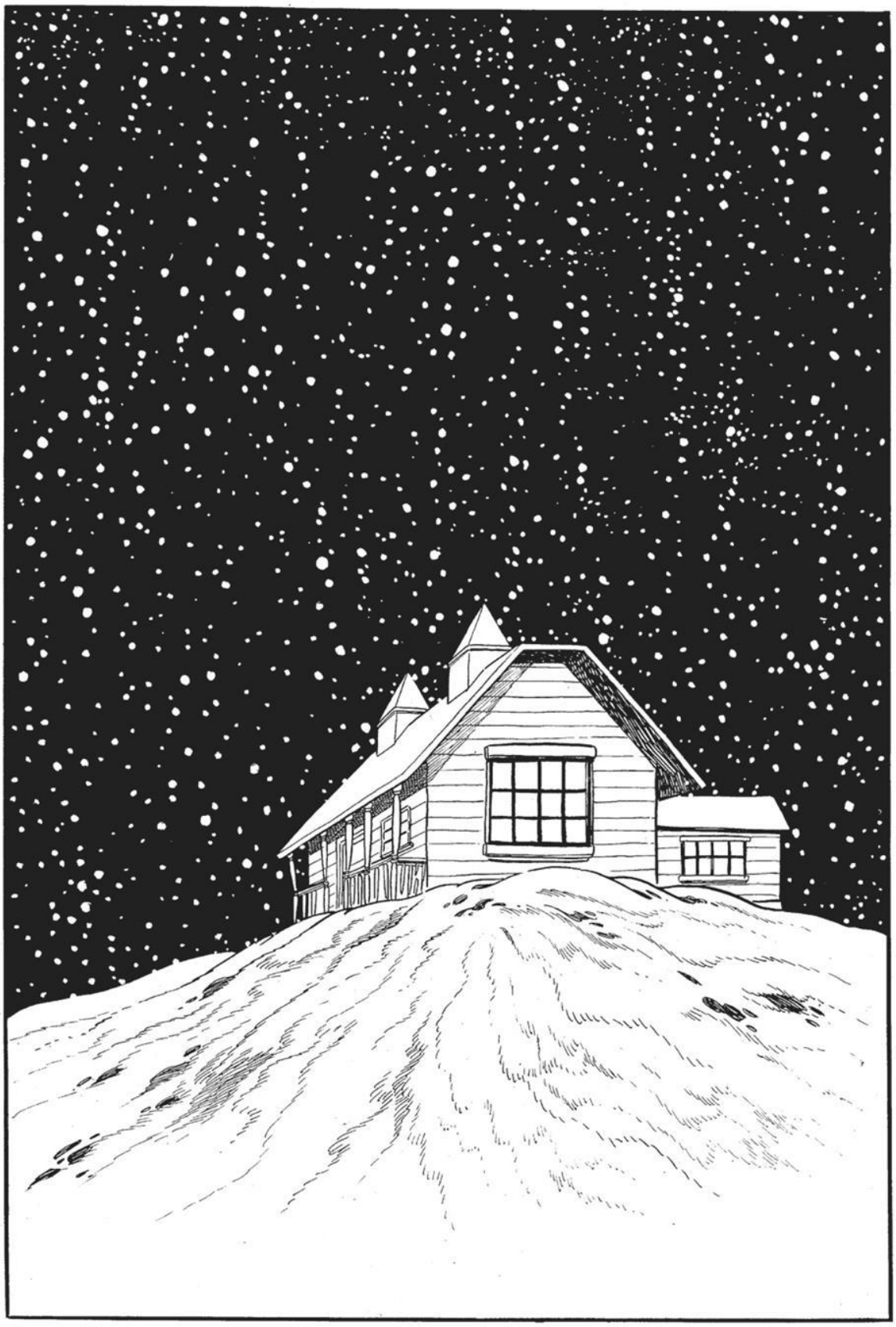
ROARR
WHOOOO

I BET NO ONE WILL EVER BELIEVE ME. THEY'D JUST ...

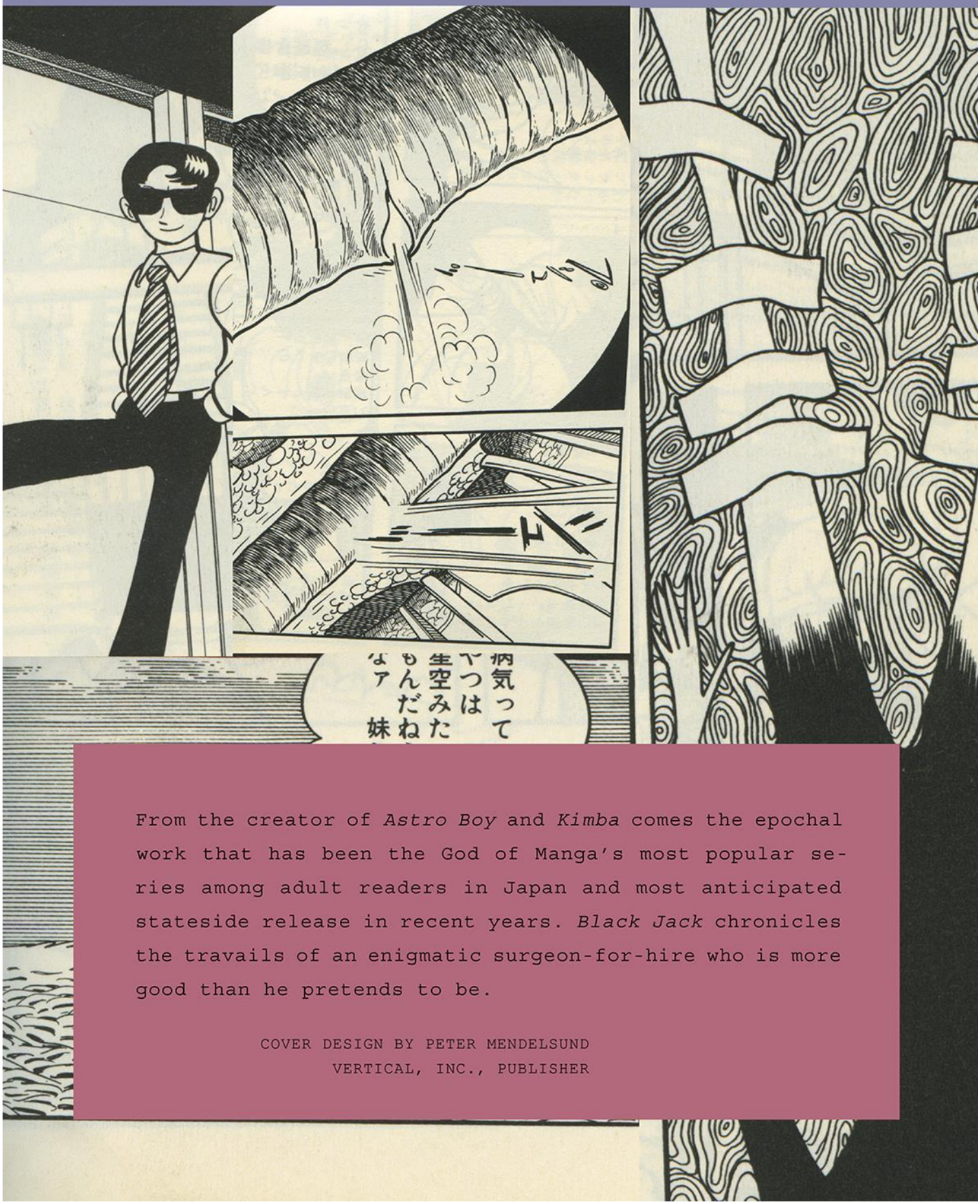
LAUGH AT ANOTHER TALE OF A SNOWY NIGHT.

PHEW!

THEY'RE GONE ...



// A PEERLESS MEDICAL DRAMA //




From the creator of *Astro Boy* and *Kimba* comes the epochal work that has been the God of Manga's most popular series among adult readers in Japan and most anticipated stateside release in recent years. *Black Jack* chronicles the travails of an enigmatic surgeon-for-hire who is more good than he pretends to be.

COVER DESIGN BY PETER MENDELSUND
VERTICAL, INC., PUBLISHER